



SIDELINES



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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Murfreesboro, TN

Report may shape higher education

Tom Sharp
Associated Press

The future shape of higher education in Tennessee may emerge in the 101st General Assembly from a report two years in the making.

Gov. Don Sundquist appointed the Governor's Council on Excellence in Tennessee Higher Education in January 1997.

He put no limitations on what the council could consider, asking that it look at everything — administration, funding, salaries, equipment, capital needs, accessibility — and recommend ways to improve Tennessee's colleges and universities.

Sundquist said he does not know what

the panel will recommend when the report comes out, but hopes it includes a way to smooth transition between state colleges and universities. The governor also backs a bonus system for full-time students who get their degrees in four years.

"Over the next few years, it ought to be one of our goals to spend more money on higher education.

But, it ought to be one of our goals to spend the present money more effectively," Sundquist said recently.

The potentially divisive political nature of the report concerns governance of the state's twin systems, the University of Tennessee system and the Board of Regents.

Some have suggested the two be merged.

"I hope we don't get off into World War III over moving the furniture around," outgoing University of Tennessee President Joe Johnson said. "On the governance question, my strong preference is to leave us alone."

Regents Chancellor Charles Smith agreed.

"I think there's a tendency to gravitate toward the perceived need to change structure as a miracle answer," Smith said. "I don't subscribe to that. I don't know how you address the structure issue until you know what it is you want to achieve. You can't assume the present structure is unable to deliver."

Johnson and Smith are members of the council. Both said a fight over governance would neglect issues such as funding levels, spending priorities and

the increased problem of accessibility to higher education.

"I'm not saying this is an ideal structure, it's just one we've had for 205 years," Johnson said. "I'm saying don't focus on that, get everybody mad and upset and nothing come out of it. This council is a good one, with a good charge, and I don't want to see its work get screwed up."

The UT system oversees five campuses. The Board of Regents oversees six four-year universities, 14 community colleges and technical institutes and 26 technology centers.

The council report won't be ready until after the 1999-2000 budget is put together. So, if big changes in funding are recommended, they may not happen for another year.

"I think realistically it will be next

session before the issue of funding will come to the forefront," Smith said. "It would be almost impossible to do it in this budget year, given the time frame. The reality is we'll have to live within our resources and build toward the long term future."

If Smith is right, the report will begin a long-range process of defining what higher education needs to improve, building a constituency for those changes and then fighting for the money most of the changes will require.

"The first item will be the recommendations on governance," said Rep. Matt Kisber, chairman of the Finance Committee. "If those are far afield, the whole report could be DOA. But if they're sound, it could be a blueprint for the future of higher education in this state."

Military Science accepting new ROTC applicants

Staff Reports

The MTSU Military Science Department is currently accepting applications for its two-year and three-year Army ROTC program.

By taking the series of elective courses, participants may earn a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, the Army National Guard, or the U.S. Army Reserves.

Awarded strictly on merit, the Army ROTC scholarship pays tuition and fees, \$450 a year for books

Deadline to apply is
Feb. 15.

and materials and \$1500 a year for spending money.

Students must be considered an academic sophomore by the start of the Fall 1999 semester to apply for a three-year scholarship.

Students must be considered an academic junior with at least 60 credit hours towards graduation requirements by the start of the Fall 1999 semester to compete for a two-year scholarship.

Graduate students are also eligible to compete for two-year scholarships.

Students must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average, pass a medical examination and be of good moral character to apply for an Army ROTC scholarship.

Applicants must younger than 27 years old on June 30 their graduation year (veterans may be extended to age 30).

Students will no military experience are eligible to compete for the scholarships as well.

These students have several options to receive credit for the Military Science courses they have missed.

To pick up an application or to get more information, stop by Forest Hall or call 898-2470. The deadline for applications is Feb. 15.

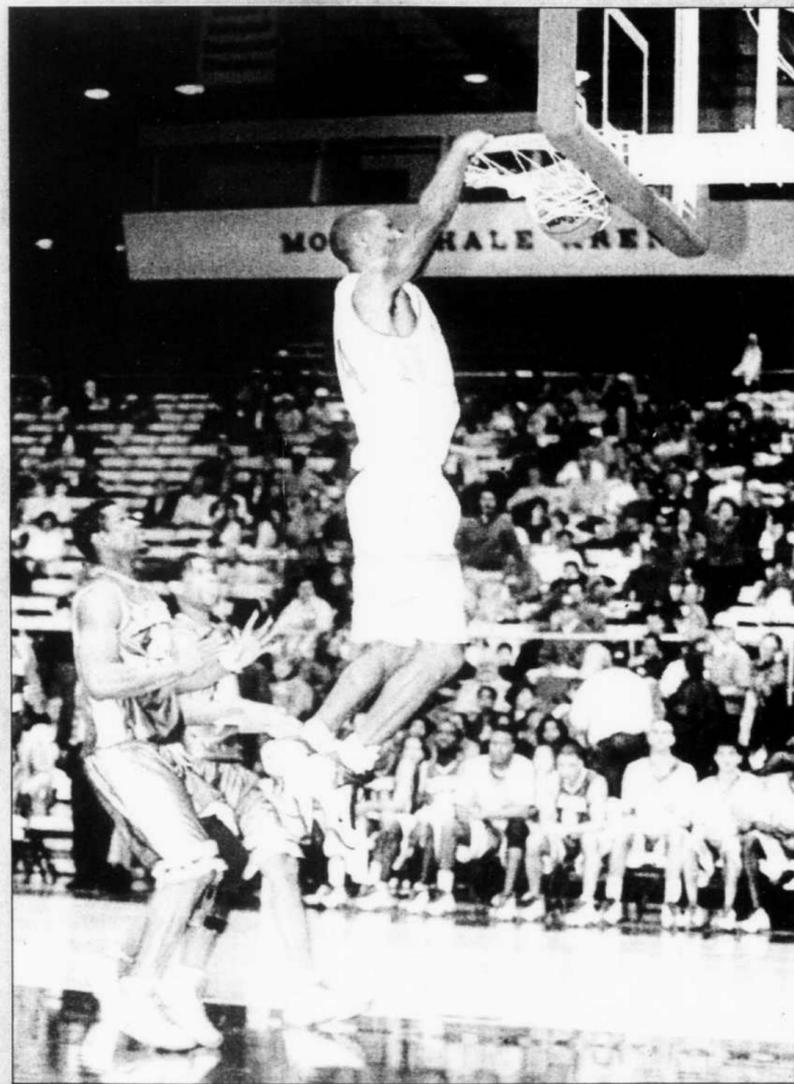


Photo by Derrick Wilson
Players from Eastern Illinois watch as Johnny Cobb, 54, earns two points for the Blue Raiders in Saturday night's game. MTSU went on to lose in the final seconds of the game. See page 8.

Radio station nominated for Gavin award

Staff Reports

WMOT-89.5 FM (Jazz 89), MTSU's all jazz radio station, not to be confused with WMTS (the student radio station), was named one of the six jazz stations in the country nominated for the Gavin Award Jazz Station of the Year in the 26+ markets.

Gavin is a highly-respected San Francisco-based national radio and music trade magazine that provides up-to-date information on what America's radio stations are playing. Gavin was founded in 1958 by Bill Gavin and has published over 2,000 weekly issues. Gavin has become America's trusted name in music research for radio.

WMOT is celebrating 30 years of public broadcasting service at MTSU.

"In 1999, WMOT celebrates its thirtieth anniversary. I think it fitting that WMOT is nominated just as we kickoff our 'Count-down to Thirty' John Egly, director of operations, and Greg Lee Hunt, program director, have worked very hard to develop the station's sound. They are to be congratulated for being recognized by their professional peers," said general manager and director John High.

Other nominees for the award were KXJC-Sacramento, WAER-Syracuse, WEMU-Ypsilanti, WNCU-Durham, and WXTS-Toledo.

In regards to being nominated with other highly esteemed nominees, program director Greg Lee Hunt said, "I pass along such an honor to the supporters of WMOT, a loyal group of jazz fans, musicians, dialers and everyday folk who scan the dial in search of great music....And a special thanks is due to MTSU for the wonderful opportunities it has given staff and students in this unique mission."

The awards will be presented Saturday, February 21 at the Gavin Seminar in New Orleans.

Jones awarded membership to Phi Kappa Pi

Staff Reports

Jennings A. Jones, retired businessman and philanthropist, and namesake of two Chairs of Excellence at MTSU, was recently awarded honorary lifetime membership in Phi Kappa Pi, a national honor society that recognizes outstanding accomplishments in all academic disciplines.

The honor was approved by the organization's national board and announced by Dr. June McCash, professor, Foreign Languages and Literatures, who

is president of the local society.

Jones' generous financial support over the years to MTSU has made possible the Jennings A Jones Chair of Excellence in Free Enterprise, and more recently, the Jennings and Rebecca Jones Chair of Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning.

His own extensive involvement in the community throughout several decades has made a considerable difference in the quality of life for middle Tennesseans.

After serving as an electrical engineer and owning and oper-

ating Jones Locker and Cold Storage System, he became chair of the Murfreesboro Planning Commission in 1946 to 1950. In 1948, Governor Gordon Browning appointed him to the Tennessee State Planning Commission, a body that he would later chair. From 1950-1954, he served as mayor of Murfreesboro.

He was the visionary behind several roadway additions in the city, surrounding arteries, and two major interchanges from I-24. He was also influential in the development of Mitchell Neilson Primary and Elementary schools,

as well as Hobgood, Bradley, and Bellwood. He helped sponsor a program called Free Enterprise Friday in conjunction with Junior Achievement, the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, and Murfreesboro City Schools.

Jones has the city Water and Sewer Commission, Chamber of Commerce, the Rutherford Hospital Board, and the Middle Tennessee Medical Center Development Foundation. Jennings and Rebecca Jones have provided major funding to Crimestoppers of Murfreesboro

and Rutherford County, the Excel Card program, the MTSU Landsat teaching and mapping program, the Murfreesboro Youth Orchestra, among many other organizations and programs.

Each local chapter of Phi Kappa Pi periodically awards honorary lifetime membership to distinguishing citizens.

Prior to nominating Jones, the local chapter had awarded just one other honorary lifetime membership, which had been given to former U.S. Senator Albert Gore Sr., who passed away on Dec. 5.



Jennings Jones

INSIDE

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SPORTS

The Lady Raiders extend their streak with a win over the Eastern Illinois Lady Panthers. See page 10.

FEATURES

Learn how to prevent getting a cold this winter season. See page 8.

WEATHER FORECAST



MONDAY
PARTLY
CLOUDY, 38



TUESDAY
RAIN, 50



WEDNESDAY
SNOW, 44

ON CAMPUS

To submit an announcement for On Campus, submit information in person at James Union Building Room 310, mail information to campus box 42 or fax information to 904-8487. Due to space constraints, priority will be given to submissions with earlier deadlines.

January 11

The Dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences is holding a reception honoring the nominees for the 1999 National Conference on College Teaching and Learning Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology. The reception will start at 3 p.m. in the West Lobby McWherter Learning Resources Center. The award recipient will be announced and the refreshments will be served.

Award nominees are as follows: Deborah Clark, Biology; Gale Clark, Chemistry; Charles Frost, Social Work; Duane Graddy, Economics and Finance; Richard Hannah, Economics and Finance; William Ilstley, Chemistry; Victor Montemayer, Astronomy and Physics; and Jay Sanders,

Educational Leadership.

For more info contact: Connie Schmidt at 898-256, email cschmidt@mtsu.edu, or visit <http://www.mtsu.edu/~tltr>.

On Going

The Fellowship House will host dinner and Bible study every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. located at the Fellowship House on 615 N. Tennessee Blvd. Contact Andrew Lee at 893-1787 or Chris Nowlin at 867-7370.

Presbyterian Student Fellowship will have Cell Groups and fellowship every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. They will host Prime-time, fellowship and dinner every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Contact Rich Zeigler at 893-1787 or Andrew Lee at 867-7370 for more information or for directions.

Raider Victory Fellowship will have weekly meetings and Bible sessions on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

at Corlew Hall room 719. They will meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at Cummings Hall lobby and at 8:00 p.m. at Felder Hall room 208. Contact Ricky Walters at 317-4541 for more info.

Dragon's Guard School of Sword Fighting and Reenactment teaches swordfighting techniques and swordplay. The school meets for practice at 7:00 p.m. at Middle Tennessee Christian School gymnasium on Tuesdays and Fridays. For more information contact Hunter Jones at 896-4596 or e-mail shadowh@bellsouth.net.

MTSU Fencing Club will have practices every Monday at 8:30 p.m. till 10:30 p.m. in the Aerobics Room located in the Rec Center. The practices are geared to students of all skill levels. Contact Michael "Hunter" Jones at 896-4596 or e-mail at shadowh@bellsouth.net ■

Backpacks could be causing damage to students' backs

Amy Cappiello
College Press Exchange

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (CPX) - Ever stopped to consider that your backpack might have something to do with your backache?

Bags might come in an array of hip styles and colors, but with the number of back injuries rising in schools and on college campuses, physicians and chiropractors say it's important for students to consider function over form.

In 1997, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated that more than 240 children were treated in hospital emergency rooms for back pain related to their backpacks and book bags.

More common is the gradual emergence of pain that comes after years of putting undue stress and strain on the lower back - a predicament many college students report they now face.

Chas Gaertner, a chiropractor who has set up shop near the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, estimates that most of his patients are much younger than the typical crowd hanging out in chiropractic

offices. He said about 80 percent of his patients are either in their teens or 20s.

Their troubles are mostly posture related, Gaertner said. He blames many of the ailments he treats on book bags - especially those that are overloaded.

"I've treated kids in the 4th and 5th grade that had backpacks bigger than their torso," he said. "I've weighed bookbags that are 35-40 pounds."

College students know plenty about over-packed sacks, too. Without lockers, they tend to cram anything and everything they could possibly need in a day into one bag that they lug around on their shoulders.

Laura Stoehr, a sophomore journalism major at UNC, schleps around on her small frame a bag that weighs at least 20 pounds. Aside from books, she also packs chapstick, a lighter, a sewing kit and plenty of gum and tissues.

"I've never used the sewing kit, but before I had it, I needed to sew on a button," she said.

"I have terrible posture, and the book bag doesn't help," she continued. "But unless I start carrying

See **BACKPACKS**, page 3



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TENNESSEE NEWS

Memphis (AP)— A mother and her boyfriend have been charged in the death of her 1-year-old daughter, police say.

Chikita Bledsoe, 24, and Ronald Newberry, 30, were charged Tuesday with murder in perpetration of aggravated child abuse.

Officers said both have given statements to police admitting their involvement in the death of Carmecia Chi-Ann Bledsoe, who died last Wednesday at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center.

Bledsoe was arrested last Tuesday evening, when police were called to her home in response to reports the child had stopped breathing. Newberry was arrested the next day after he tried to flee with another of Bledsoe's children, a 2-year-old girl.

Since their confessions were taken more than 48 hours after their arrests, they may be subject to a court challenge.

Bledsoe initially told police Carmecia stopped breathing after she hit her head on the bathtub. The medical examiner's office has determined the child was beaten and died from head trauma, shaken baby syndrome and compression of the throat.

The Department of Children's Services also is conducting its own internal investigation. Employees at the day care center Carmecia attended say they reported the abuse early in December. ■

Lewisburg (AP)— Two Middle Tennessee men face multiple charges after a shootout with two Marshall County deputies that left one officer critically wounded and another suspect dead.

William D. Holt, 18, of Chapel Hill was jailed

on charges of attempted murder, reckless endangerment and theft.

Chris Allen Dykes, 25, of Bedford County was jailed on charges of attempted murder, reckless endangerment, theft, evading arrest and a parole violation out of Sullivan County.

The dead suspect was identified Tuesday as Michael John Murphy Jr., 18, of Shelbyville.

Investigators said Capt. Norman Dalton was shot Monday after he arrived as backup for Deputy Dac Burrow, who had pulled over a car matching the description of a vehicle believed used in a recent string of burglaries in the area.

Sheriff Les Helton said the officers found a gun in the car and they ordered two of the three occupants out of the vehicle. The remaining passenger - Murphy - opened fire through a window, hitting Dalton.

Murphy then got out of the car and fired at Burrow, who shot back. Murphy died a short time later. The other two suspects were not injured.

Dalton, 44, a 14-year veteran in law enforcement, was in fair condition Tuesday at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, where he underwent four hours of surgery Monday on at least one stomach wound.

State prison officials said Dykes had a criminal record, mostly for theft and burglary in northeast Tennessee, dating back to 1993. He was first imprisoned in 1993 and was paroled in 1997 but failed to report to his parole officer last June and had been wanted since then.

Dalton was the first county officer injured in the line of duty since 1975. He is married and the father of two children.

The shooting occurred outside a country market in the community of Berlin, about five miles north of Lewisburg on state Route 431. ■

NATIONAL NEWS



Dallas, TX (AP)— Nearly 6 percent of a group of sexually active young women say they deliberately take the drug Rohypnol, despite warnings that it can make them vulnerable to rape, researchers say.

Rohypnol is known as a "date rape drug" because of cases in which women were assaulted after someone slipped it into their drink. Users have likened one tablet to drinking 12 beers.

Researchers at the University of Texas questioned 904 women ages 14 to 26 who visited a Galveston family planning clinic, and found that 5.9 percent - or 53 - said they had taken flunitrazepam, the scientific name for Rohypnol, at least once. Six reported taking it more than 20 times.

The study was reported Tuesday in the journal Pediatrics.

The researchers and other experts said they suspect women try the drug because it is cheap, produces a drunken-like high and heightens the effects of other narcotics.

"The media has been very clear about the dangers of this drug and yet teen-age girls, particularly the ones we studied, when they party and someone offers them something, they accept," Dr. Vaughn Rickert said. "They are really leaving themselves open for assault."

Dr. Ron Charles, a professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, questioned the survey's accuracy.

"I doubt that many people actually know what Rohypnol is.

There are many street drugs that can be perceived as Rohypnol," he said.

Rohypnol is illegal in the United States but prescribed in Mexico and dozens of other countries for severe sleep disorders. In Mexican border towns, a tablet can sell for less than \$1, meaning young people in Texas can get Rohypnol cheaply.

Law enforcement agencies seized 194 pills in Texas in 1992, and 41,600 in 1995. ■

Trenton, NJ (AP)— An ousted homosexual Boy Scouts leader asked the state's highest court to apply New Jersey's anti-discrimination law rather than the Scouts "morally straight" code to his appeal for reinstatement.

The Boy Scouts of America asked the court during oral arguments Tuesday to overturn a 1998 appeals court decision saying dismissal of Matawan assistant scoutmaster James Dale violated state anti-discrimination law.

Dale's attorneys told the court the Boy Scouts are not protected by First Amendment rights of expression because discriminating against gays is not the specific purpose for which the group was formed, citing such protected groups as the Ku Klux Klan. Attorneys for both sides predicted the case could land in the U.S. Supreme Court, saying they would appeal if the state court rules against them.

George Davidson, an attorney for the Boy Scouts, said the group has a right to pick its own leaders without interference from "an all powerful state."

"An essential part of the Boy Scout message is to be morally straight," Davidson said. "The view that homosexual conduct is an acceptable way of conducting oneself is not morally straight."

Evan Wolfson, representing Dale for the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, said the state's laws against discrimination "are simply too compelling" to overturn the appeals court ruling.

"The Boy Scouts' hierarchy has a policy of discrimination, but it is not a specific purpose of the organization, the reason that brought members together," said Wolfson. She said there is no mention of a policy excluding homosexuals in thousands of pages of Boy Scout literature.

Dale, 24, earned 30 merit badges, seven achievement honors and other awards, and was an Eagle Scout during his 12 years in the organization. He was expelled in 1990. ■

WORLD NEWS



Hebron, West Bank (AP)— A Palestinian carrying what turned out to be a toy pistol near a Jewish enclave in Hebron was shot today by Israel soldiers and died several hours later, the army said.

Hebron, home to 130,000 Palestinians and 450 Jewish settlers, is one of the tensest spots in the West Bank. Assaultants believed to be Palestinian militants opened fire Monday on a van carrying settler women and two of the passengers were injured.

In response, the Israeli army imposed a curfew on the downtown area of the city it controls and also barred Palestinians from leaving and entering Hebron. Settlers can move around freely.

The army said soldiers were guarding the Jewish settler enclave of Beit Romano this morning when the Palestinian approached. Soldiers asked the man to stop for a security check, the army statement said. The man took out a handgun and fled, with soldiers in pursuit.

Then the man suddenly turned and ran toward the soldiers, the army said, but offered no explanation.

Soldiers opened fire, critically wounding him, the army said. The army said the gun in the man's possession was a toy.

The man was treated by army paramedics and taken to a hospital by military ambulance. He died several hours later at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, said Hadassah spokeswoman Yael Bosem-Levy.

She said his identity was not known because he carried no documents.

The shooting occurred shortly before 9 a.m. in the central square of Hebron, near the outdoor vegetable market.

The new violence in Hebron comes at a time when the Israeli-Palestinian peace process is on hold. ■

Goma, Congo (AP)— A senior Congolese rebel leader said today he has ordered an investigation into reports his forces massacred 500 civilians, apparently in retaliation for an attack on his forces.

The Italian news service Misna said it had first-person reports that rebels hacked or shot to death residents in the village of Makobola, 10 miles south of the Lake Tanganyika port of Uvira.

"If this is true, those responsible will be punished," Ernest Wamba dia Wamba told The Associated Press. "I have ordered an investigation by the local authorities. We have to wait for the results."

The news agency, which reports on the activities of Italian missionaries overseas, said a commander in the Rwandan army led the ethnic Tutsi rebel unit that carried out the massacre between Dec. 30 and Jan. 1.

Officials in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, were not immediately available for comment. Rwanda, along with Uganda, is backing the rebel bid to overthrow Congolese President Laurent Kabila.

Rebel officials have barred reporters from traveling to Makobola. They said today a visit to the site might be arranged soon.

Rev. Giulio Albanese, head of the Rome-based news agency, said the killers methodically tracked down their victims.

"It was a very long massacre," Albanese said. "They killed many, many children, many women, many elders. Many innocent people."

Albanese said the massacre was in apparent retaliation for an attack by local militia members which left an unknown number of rebel troops dead. The loose-knit militia, known as the Mai-Mai, view the Rwandan- and Ugandan-backed insurgents as foreign invaders, but also oppose Kabila's government. ■

Families can't rely on grants to cover high costs of college

Ralph Vigoda
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Beaming parents are barely home from the hospital with their newborn before they are forced to face perhaps the most vexing question in child-raising today:

How are we going to pay for college?

Babies born today are potential members of the college class of 2020. Right now, the average cost - tuition, room and board - at a four-year private school is \$19,213 per year, according to the College Board in New York. But most Ivy League schools and those that are comparable cost more than \$30,000.

The College Board says the average annual cost for a four-year public school is \$7,472. Penn State, though, is between \$10,600 and \$11,000, depending on year and major.

If you look back at how rapidly college costs have risen in the past decade - 5 percent to 6 percent annually - and project ahead to 2016, when today's newborns will likely become college freshmen, it is not hard to conclude that four years of college could cost \$75,000 for a public university to \$250,000 for a top-notch private school.

And yet, according to a 1997 poll conducted for the Student Loan Marketing Association (Sallie Mae), which is part of the nation's largest provider of student loans, just about 18 percent of families start saving for college before their child begins high school.

Most parents, the survey showed, save about 25 percent of college costs, while two

out of 10 families - 20 percent - don't save at all for school.

"Many parents come into this with the attitude that government and schools will pay for everything," said Mark Kantrowitz, a Pittsburgh author and financial-aid expert who publishes a Web site at <http://www.finaid.org/> that is filled with charts, calculators and other information about paying for college.

"That just doesn't happen. The federal government has stated that it expects the family to be primarily responsible for a child's education, and will step in only when a family can't afford it."

Time, said Kantrowitz and other college finance counselors, is a family's greatest asset. Saving just \$25 a week from birth to age 17 at 5 percent interest will yield about \$34,800, a decent chunk of money. Even just \$10 a week at that rate would grow to nearly \$14,000 - although in 17 years that may barely cover books and late-night pizzas.

"The most important thing is to start saving as soon as possible," said William Shevlin, who specializes in college financial planning at New Century Financial Group in Princeton.

The earlier a family starts saving, Shevlin said, the more risks it can take with its money.

"When a child's much younger, be more aggressive," he said. "Then, when he gets closer to college age, you want to think about repositioning your money, perhaps putting it into something more stable, like an intermediate-term bond fund or a prime-rate fund. They're interest-earning,

but not necessarily subject to too many wild swings."

Financial aid is an extremely complicated process, said Kantrowitz.

"It's got its own language. It's very intimidating," he said. "It takes time to learn and understand the process, and the earlier a family starts, the better-educated it will be by the time it has to engage in the process."

In 2016 it is not hard to conclude that four years of college could cost \$75,000 for a public university to \$250,000 for a top-notch private school.

Financial experts almost uniformly suggest getting into stocks and mutual funds early and staying there for 10 to 12 years. You don't need thousands of dollars to start out, they point out. What you do need is a strong stomach to ride out the fluctuations.

In recent years, states have begun offering pre-paid tuition plans, in which families contribute either in a lump sum or, more commonly, through an extended monthly payment plan. The state then puts the money together and invests it.

Supporters of such plans, which are in 22 states, including Pennsylvania and New Jersey, say their biggest strengths are in encouraging families to save, and in offering reassurance that there will be money for college. Detractors, though, point out that money can be placed in other vehicles that offer higher returns.

What happens, though, if you haven't been saving and it suddenly dawns on you that your son or daughter is just two or three years from heading off to college? That's a situation that Jack Joyce, now part of the financial aid division of the College Board, saw time and again when he worked at colleges in Massachusetts and New York.

"We tell them it's better to start early - and if they have younger children, to start thinking about saving for them - but it's never too late to put something aside, even if it's only a minimal amount," he said. "It's something they'll be able to draw on and earn interest on, rather than having to pay interest on a student or parent loan."

If you do get into the savings game when the child is 12, 13, 14 years old, still look for growth for at least a couple of years, but stick with lower-risk investments, experts say. Bonds are attractive, they say, because there is less risk that they will fall sharply in value. Government securities are fairly safe, but have a lower return than many other investments.

When the college candidate turns 16, advisers will tell you to look at money-market funds, certificates of deposits, or savings bonds that protect the principal

and still earn money.

Everyone agrees that it's crucial to save money in the parents' names, not the child's.

"There are slight tax benefits by saving in a child's name, but it's outweighed by loss in aid eligibility," said Kantrowitz.

The formula used to determine financial aid is much harsher on a student's assets than on the parents'. A student is expected to contribute 35 percent of his or her assets toward the cost of education; the rate for parents, though, is 5.64 percent. (Remember: assets include savings and investments, but not retirement plans or the value of a home.)

In other words, if a student has saved \$4,000 from summer jobs, a college will expect \$1,400 of it to go toward tuition. Parents' assets would have to be just under \$25,000 to require that much.

Kantrowitz gives an example of a family of five today (two parents, three kids, including one about to start college), in which mom and dad have \$60,000 of income and \$50,000 in assets. The student has no assets, except for \$3,000 from a summer job. At a state school that costs \$11,500 for the year, the family would be expected to pay \$4,500, leaving \$7,000 in financial aid that would come in a mixture of \$55 billion in aid was distributed.)

But for all the talk of risks and investments and percentages, the way to pay for college comes down to a pretty common-sense formula.

"For every dollar somebody saves," said Jack Joyce, "it's a couple of dollars somebody doesn't have to borrow."

CRIME REPORT

All information is based on official reports received from the MTSU Public Safety department. All charges are preliminary pending on the review by proper authorities. No statement of guilt is inferred or implied until incidences have gone through proper legal procedure.

January 1

1:08 a.m. Police received report of white male subject acting disorderly conduct outside Family Housing
1:28 a.m. Male subject arrested in Family Student Housing for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

January 2

9:19 a.m. Public safety was made aware of an alarm going off in Mass Com building, believed to be a fire alarm by a teacher.
7:40 p.m. A student, cardiac patient, suffering chest pains called 911 emergency and was transported by ambulance.

January 4

8:33 a.m. Public Safety was notified of an attempted vandalism of a copy machine in Peck Hall.
9:53 a.m. An office located in Peck Hall was broken into and a desk drawer was pried open. The estimated value of the theft was less than \$500.00. ■

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BACKPACKS

continued from page 2

around a little suitcase on wheels, there's not a lot I can do about it."

Zach Finley, a first-year law student at Harvard University, knows her pain. He lives about five minutes from campus and walks every day with a shoulder bag slung across his body.

"Some days I have three classes, and I have to carry six books and some binders," he said. "It's not usually too bad, but on those days I have to carry six books, it's pretty trying. I would think my bag gets up to 20-25 pounds on the extreme days."

Gaertner warns that routinely lugging such a large amount of weight can alter a student's

posture for the worse. A properly packed bag equals between 10 percent and 20 percent of its carrier's weight, he said.

"Most people are creating a really bad altercation in their posture," he said. "They develop posture where they hold their head like a turtle or a vulture."

Good thing not everyone fills their bags to the brim. Kristy Cannaday, a senior economics major at Emory University in Atlanta, alternates between two backpacks - a trendy leather satchel and a plain canvas bag. No matter which one she's using, Cannaday said she only carries the bare necessities.

"Economics books are big text books, so I don't usually take them to class," Cannaday said. "I have

spirals, a folder, my day planner, pens, pencils. That's about it."

Because bookbags are such an integral part of most student's day, The American Academy of Pediatrics offers several pointers on how to use them:

*Use a hip belt to take pressure off the shoulders, redistributing weight to the hip and pelvis.

*Distribute your load by using all of a bag's compartments. Place heavier books and items closest to the back, putting the center of gravity nearest the pelvis.

*Tighten shoulder straps to draw the pack as close to the body as is comfortable.

*Pick a pack that has padding in the straps and other areas that come in direct contact with the

back to avoid jabbing and discomfort.

*Sling bags with one long shoulder strap across the chest to better distribute weight. Students carrying traditional backpacks should use both shoulder straps to ease the load.

*Students who insist on the ever popular one-shoulder look should periodically shift their bags, using different arms to carry their loads.

*Lighten your load. Haul around only the things you need.

That last bit of advice may be more difficult for some students to accept than others.

"I carry a bus schedule, gum and the parking tickets I got reduced as kind of a personal victory," said Anna Pond, a senior at UNC. ■

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Students go to odd lengths to make money for school

Yuan-Kwan Chan
College Press Exchange

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (CPX) - When Leslie Kmetty agreed to spend last summer working as a personal assistant for a professor at the University of Iowa, she had no idea what she was getting herself into.

It wasn't the laundry, the cleaning or the garbage disposal that bothered her.

Nor was she really surprised when the professor depended on her to argue with air conditioning companies when a cooling unit went on the fritz.

No, there were other things for Kmetty to wonder and worry about - such as all those blankets the professor asked her to hang from ceiling to floor in the master bedroom. Unable to determine why the bedroom was remarkably warmer than other areas of the house, the professor thought the blankets would block out enough sunlight to help determine whether she needed to buy blinds for the room. She asked Kmetty to monitor the room's temperature each day to determine if the heat decreased.

"But the worst part of it all," recalled

Kmetty, a junior at the University of Iowa, "was laying mulch for 11 hours in her front yard."

It was odd, tedious and unglamorous work - but a job that Kmetty said helped her pay the bills.

College students and odd jobs go together like peanut butter and jelly. Whether the work is as mundane as stuffing envelopes or as risqué as the stripping that author Heidi Mattson did in local clubs to pay her way through Brown University, college students have, throughout the years, demonstrated a willingness to do just about anything to make money.

Take Matt, a graduate student at the University of Chicago, for example. He asked that his last name not be used for this story because he's not sure how people would perceive his occasional work for the university's medical school.

Matt said he lets students practice their clinical skills on him, patiently waiting as they give him testicular and, yes, rectal, examinations.

He's paid a nominal fee - usually around \$100 - for two hours of his time. "Hey, it's in the name of science," he said.

Similar sentiments echo throughout

many campuses across the country, where students sell their plasma every few weeks for about \$30 a pop or sign up for a wide array of experiments being conducted in laboratories and hospitals.

Students who pounce on a particularly time-consuming study can walk away with a few hundred dollars once it's over.

Other students declare their work is done in the name of art. Depending on the school, nude models can fetch up to \$20 an hour and count on one session lasting three to five hours.

Despite the ups and downs of their work, many students say they're glad they were flexible enough to choose offbeat jobs because, in many cases, they learned valuable lessons that could serve them well in their future careers.

Amber Watts, a senior at the University of Redlands in California, took three part-time jobs last summer because she didn't want to return home.

Little did she know that she'd juggle those hours by running experimental tests on male fighter-fish, building theater sets and house-sitting.

While the work didn't put tons of money into her pocket - she made about \$10 an hour in the lab, \$7 an hour in the theater -

Watts said the rewards were great.

She co-authored a manuscript about her lab research that was submitted to a psychology journal.

The house-sitting paid well and provided an added bonus by giving her a cool refuge from her non-air-conditioned dorm room.

The set-building job indirectly contributed to her post-graduation plans.

"I learned how to weld in the theater and it's one of my most marketable skills," she said. "Graduate schools [in experimental psychology] now are looking for that. We need to build mazes, animal behavior, and various laboratory equipment for experiments."

April McNamee, a senior special education major at Slippery Rock University, is on the recreational staff of a reform center in Grove City, Pa., that houses about 450 boys between 8 and 18, all of whom have committed crimes such as stealing, drug and weapons possession and attempted murder.

McNamee, one of only three women on staff, said she risks the job-related danger because of all she stands to learn from it.

"The reason why I took [the job] is because I want to work in this type of

atmosphere as a teacher one day," McNamee said. "It's worked out very well for me because I kind of had this type of ideal atmosphere, and I've realized that it's not going to be quite that easy."

Marjoe Marcelus, a student security officer during her sophomore year at Ursinus College, suffered through the 4-7 a.m. graveyard shift on weekends for \$6 an hour and to learn more about emergency services.

She answered calls, checked student ID's and dispatched police officers and emergency medical technicians.

Despite the headaches and nightmares - 20 naked men ran by her one night after streaking around campus - the security job sure beat the work she did in the campus dining room the year before, she said.

"I got really sick of tomatoes because I had to slice two cartons full of them every day," said Marcelus, now a senior.

"And it's probably better that you don't see how your food is prepared," she added. "There was a guy who was making potato salad. He used his hand to stir it, and the salad went halfway up his arm. Even though he was wearing a glove, it didn't help." ■

Vols fans face near mishap on way back from Fiesta Bowl

PHOENIX (AP) - A charter plane full of Tennessee fans on their way home from the Fiesta Bowl was taking off when someone looking out a window noticed that the plane's rear cargo door had flown open.

As the door banged repeatedly against the side of the plane, a yell went up: "Turn around, turn around."

And 10 minutes later, the plane was back safely on the ground, no one was hurt, and plane itself apparently sustained only minor damage if that.

But those 10 minutes were harrowing for the 170 passengers and crew aboard Miami Air International's Boeing 727.

"I just knew we were goners," said Allan Wainwright of Jackson, Tenn., whose window seat was above the cargo door.

"The whole plane was vibrating, and that door hit the side like a tremendous boulder 35 or 40 times," he said. "I'd hate to think what would have happened if we were any higher."

Flight 665 was taxiing for takeoff from Sky Harbor International Airport about 9:50 a.m. Tuesday when the open door was noticed.

"We were going down the runway picking up speed, and this guy right in front of me looked out the window and said, 'There's a cargo door open,'" said Delisa Locke of Nashville.

"Everyone moaned about that, and we got the word very quickly to a stewardess."

Garnett Gardner of Nashville said, "Just as soon as we were airborne, everyone started yelling, 'Turn around!' to the pilot.

"Then it got quiet as a church inside as that door whacked the plane.

"We all let out a big yell when we got back on the ground," said Gardner, who was traveling with his wife, Carolyn, and 13-year-old son, David.

The plane had climbed to 2,500 feet while dumping 9,000 gallons of fuel to lighten the load for landing.

On the ground, where some cars and even people were misted by the fuel, lines of people stood staring upward.

Clyde James, a maintenance supervisor at an apartment complex, said he was working in the laundry room when he heard a series of loud booms and ran outside.

Looking up, he said, he saw a plane flying maybe 200 to 400 feet overhead, fuel pouring out of its wings and its cargo hatch open.

"I looked right into the plane," James said. "I didn't think it was going to make it."

After the landing, passengers were taken to a local motel to await another plane that was to take them to Nashville by late Tuesday. Safety officials, meanwhile, checked door to door in key areas to make sure no one suffered ill effects.

Officials said the fuel wasn't a health risk.

Ross Fischer, the airline's president, said company workers were trying to determine whether human error, a failed latch or something else caused the problems with the 6- by 8-foot cargo door.

He also said lights - "very glaring lights" - that normally tell the pilot the cargo door is open never went on.

"It'd be very hard to miss it," Fischer added. "It would be hard to even taxi when those are on."

He said the crew was alerted first by a loud bang.

Miami Air International, a small charter airline based in Miami, has been in operation since October 1991 and flies seven planes to destinations North America, South America and Europe, Fischer said.

According to federal records, one of the company's airplanes - which has the same tail number - had problems with decompression while descending into Miami in December 1992, and a side window was blown out. One passenger received minor ear injuries.

Another passenger's arm was sucked out of the window, and he suffered minor cuts and scrapes.

The cause of that incident was never determined.

The same plane was involved in another incident five days earlier in which another passenger window was blown out during decompression but no one was injured, according to FAA records. ■

USC seeks to build literary biography collection

William W. Starr
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Matt Brucoli admits he's out "wooing the widows" these days, but it's only for the best of reasons.

Brucoli, Jefferies Professor of English at USC and among the most distinguished of literary scholars, is trying to get some money to help firm up the ambitious - and yes, expensive - plans to develop the nation's first depository of literary biographies on the university's Columbia campus.

You have to figure that if anyone can pull it off, it's Brucoli.

He's managed to enlist some pretty notable support, most recently from Pulitzer Prize-winning author John Updike, who visited USC late last year. Updike called the plans "a flower in the lapel of the university," though he professed no interest in having any biographies which should appear with him as their subject as part of the collection.

Brucoli also has jump-started the depository with some 2,000 volumes culled from the shelves of the university library system. But - as Ken Starr says - that's just the beginning, my friends. The project eventually could lead to tens of thousands of books, or more. No one knows exactly how many.

"This is such a good idea that someone with more money will take it away from us if we don't get an endowment up quickly," Brucoli said.

How much will it ultimately cost? No one knows that either, but Brucoli has hopes of securing a \$500,000 gift, and he's willing to be generous about the credit.

"It would take only \$100,000 up front and the rest in a pledge," he said. "And the donor

could name the collection after anyone they wish. That's a lot more than you'd get for \$5 million at Harvard or Yale."

Brucoli came up with the idea for the depository earlier this year. Everyone thought it was a great idea. No one could believe that such a depository didn't already exist somewhere.

Brucoli told the Associated Press that the collection will be "kind of a supermarket of literary biography." He envisions assembling one copy of every literary biography ever published about an American writer and making them available to students and researchers.

It would be a wonderful and unique resource. And probably the envy of other universities, too.

It is planned as a collection which would not remain static, because every year brings a new assortment of literary biographies. In fact, the genre seems to be growing in numbers and respectability.

Brucoli already has persuaded a couple of New York-based publishers to donate copies of each of their forthcoming author biographies, and he hopes to convince others of the long-term significance of contributing to the collection.

The key word in putting together the depository, by the way, is "literary." The authors have to be literary writers along the lines of Herman Melville, Eudora Welty, Truman Capote, Mark Twain and Ellen Glasgow.

While the curators will be the ones making the decisions about which books go into the collection, don't get too excited about the prospect of finding biographies of Erich Segal, Jacqueline Susann, Robin Moore and Grace Metalious.

Or have you forgotten "Peyton Place"? ■

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Tue	3:30 pm - 8:30 pm	9:30 am - 11:00 am 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm 11:05 am - 5:30 pm
Wed	9:00 am - 10:30 am 4:00 pm - 8:30 pm	10:00 am - 11:00 am 1:30 am - 5:30 pm
Thur	5:00 pm - 9:30 pm	1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
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Sat	9:30 am - 11:30 am	Closed
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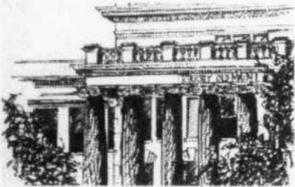
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OPINIONS

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

—Thomas Jefferson
Murfreesboro, TN



6 ■ SIDELINES

Editorial

Punishing five-year graduates unfair

Gov. Don Sundquist has said he backs a system in which students are rewarded for graduating a "four-year" university in four years.

It's a great idea because graduating in four years is a hard feat to accomplish these days and students who can do it have worked hard.

But there's a flip side to this reward system. Sundquist has said he also favors punishment for students who can't put on a cap and gown in the traditional four years — one suggestion is that these students pay more tuition.

What a great way to encourage students to pursue higher education. Make students work a full-time job so that they can afford the increasing costs of tuition, and then charge them more when they can't finish on time because they had to work to afford college.

The governor wants students to get into the habit of graduating in four years again.

He needs to be realistic. Maybe he can't understand why a student can't graduate in four years, but a college student can.

A student would have to go through college without changing his major, take almost a full load of classes each semester and never fail or drop a class.

How many students do you know like that?

A student who takes only 12 hours per semester — the lowest a student can take and still be considered full-time — would need 11 semesters to graduate.

To graduate with the university-required 132 hours in eight semesters means a student must take an average of 16.5 hours per semester.

That's nice in theory, but not in practice.

Even some of the "best" students can get delayed in their quest for graduation.

The governor obviously doesn't have a clue of what it takes to juggle the responsibilities of college students these days. If he did, he would never think of punishing someone for something they can't avoid.

For many students, a job is as much a part of the daily grind as attending classes. It's not a matter of choice if they want little things like rent, food and gas.

And what about non-traditional students, who may be starting or finishing a degree in addition to working and raising a family?

There are too many extenuating circumstances for Gov. Sundquist to think about punishing those who do not earn a degree in four years.

Ultimately, it is the students who pay for the cost of their education — whether they pay out of pocket, repay a loan or earn a scholarship through years of hard work.

It should be up to them to decide how many semesters they should stay in school.

Travel through snow no walk in park

Keith Ryan Cartwright
staff writer

I've been through hell and I'll describe it for you — ice, lots of ice.

During this past winter break, I went back home to Wisconsin, a place I've lived for the better portion of my life. I knew that I was pressing my luck by staying there as long as I did.

Once January rolls around, the snow usually arrives in droves. Once again, it did the same this year.

I wanted to leave on Saturday, but a winter storm watch was in effect, and I was told I'd be better off waiting until Sunday to set out on my 700-mile trek back to Murfreesboro.

You see, in Wisconsin, a whopping 15 inches of snow could fall one day and life is back to normal the next. It's a simple concept: the snow falls and you dig out and go. No big deal — it's just another super day in paradise.

It's the same in Illinois.

So, with that in mind, I allowed myself to be convinced I would be better off driving Sunday.

What no one, including myself, factored into the equation was my stint through Northern Indiana.

I'll start by saying one word — hell.

Not only did the place get drilled with 12 inches of snow, but, it was preceded by freezing rain which accumulated in the fashion of 1-to-2 inches of ice on the roads.

Travel was nearly impossible. Once the snow was removed the ice factor was further complicated by blowing snow, a result of 35 mile per hour wind in an area that is basically flat and barren.

Instead of my typical 11-hour drive taking 14 or 15 hours, I became stranded in the lowly city of Merrillville at only 2 p.m.

Unfortunately, a 120-mile section of Interstate 65 was closed until Monday morning.

To go with what's being called "the blizzard of '99," I was trapped in a city which consists of two blocks on either side of the interstate.

I couldn't believe it.

Finally, at 8:30 a.m. Monday morning, the interstate reopened. At last I could escape the Northern blues of winter.

Reality was about to set in.

I was roughly two hours north of Indianapolis. But, it

wouldn't be until nearly 1 p.m. that I would get there.

The temperature was a mere 30 below zero, nothing compared to the 55 below I experienced in Wisconsin. The wind was blowing at about 20 miles an hour making the driving a tad bit better than impossible.

Coupled with the fact that my windows kept fogging up, the flow of traffic was only 20-to-30 miles per hour.

To combat the fogging windows, I had to roll them down a tad and crank up the heat. Once I could see again, it looked like the twilight zone. Car after car kept sliding off the road.

One minute there would be a car ahead of me, and the next it would be barreled into a four-foot high snow drift.

The good thing is that I finally made it. Hooray!

I just want to finish by making one public announcement.

Next year, if anyone remotely hears me making plans of spending my break in Wisconsin, for the love of God, take a 2-by 4, pound a handful of nails through one end, and whack me in the forehead with it because it's obvious my brain is in serious need of some oxygen.

FYI - Another 12 inches of snow is expected to hit Wisconsin this weekend. ■

COLLEGE PRESS



"WE BETTER CHECK FOR GAMBLING, SINCE WHEN DO OUR GUYS CELEBRATE THE OTHER TEAMS TOUCHDOWNS?"

Recruits lured in with money, not education

Ian Lang and James Griffin
Trinity College

In colleges around the country, sports hold such a primary role in school that athletes are no longer student-athletes. Instead, they are recruited players in a well-funded, over-exposed minor league system disguised as higher education.

In essence, this means that institutions, whose missions are supposed to focus on education, accept and label as a student-athlete folks who have no interest in anything academic, just to promote the athletic program.

The infiltration of sports over academics seeps all the way down to the lowest rung of collegiate athletics.

Take a small school like Trinity for example. Athletes here have little chance of being good enough or getting enough exposure to play professionally, but sports here still get emphasized to the point of admitting less-than qualified students and then allowing them to slide academically.

What, then, is the point of having varsity athletics? Proponents of Division athletics tend to emphasize the bonding that sports bring to the college community. A given team's success also influences the amount of alumni donations and in so doing, helps pay for less profitable, academic endeavors, they say.

Though each of these arguments has a minuscule amount of validity, neither justifies the copious amounts of money funneled into varsity athletic programs. If funding for varsity sports were cut to the level that is spent on club sports, the bonding aspect would not be diminished, but simply defocused. Athletic teams are supposed to be extensions of our community, and should be made up of students who enter college based on academic merit, not on their ability to kick a soccer ball.

By eliminating such things as athletic recruitment, the college administrators could turn their attention

to recruiting the best and brightest students; students who would contribute to the intellectual environment that the halls of higher education supposedly hold paramount.

Studies have shown that donation rates rise in correspondence with the success of sports teams, especially football. However, one would hope alumni are not so caught up in the worth of the football team that they give solely based on its success or failure.

Joe Paterno, coach of the Penn State Nittany Lions football team for decades, recently gave more than one million dollars to the school, not to the Penn State athletic program, but to the university's library. If someone whose life has been and still is devoted to the sport of football recognizes the importance of education, shouldn't people whose careers have nothing to do with sports give up reliving their glory

days through people young enough to be their children or grandchildren?

Critics of policies de-emphasizing athletics will point to the fact that such moves would inevitably alienate students and decrease enrollment.

Though this may be the case if only one school was to approve such measures, a more allied effort to eliminate varsity athletics would set those schools apart from their counterparts.

No longer could one describe a Williams or a Trinity as a jock school where athletes happen to take classes. Instead we would be viewed as academic institutions that provide an athletic outlet for those students who are interested in academics.

We are not saying that sports are useless or even unimportant. Rather, that sports at American colleges are generally given preeminence that is drastically out of proportion with their importance.

After all, sports are supposed to be an extracurricular activity, not the primary focus of one's daily life. The football team gets new uniforms with regularity, and yet a university's art center can be a joke and its English classes can be left to almost beg, borrow and steal to make sure all of its students get copies of important handouts. ■

Better think twice about Miss Monica

Sandy Grady
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON - Ready for the Return of Monica?

Eager - or maybe resigned - to hear her spiel about the thong underwear, the cigar, phone sex and what the World's Most Famous Illicit Couple did in the Oval Office bathroom?

If the steamy prospect of Ms. Lewinsky recounting her White House sexual capers in front of 100 senators (and perhaps a national TV audience) is jarring, you know why the impeachment trial of Bill Clinton starts in backdoor chaos.

Monica or no Monica? Even as formal machinery of the Clinton trial clanks under way, behind-the-scenes squabbling about Lewinsky's testimony was driving the greatest minds of the U.S. Senate batty.

Sure, dignity reigned Thursday when the Senate began the first presidential impeachment trial in 132 years. The 13 House managers — a prosecuting lineup of Republican pit bulls — somberly read their two impeachment articles. Chief Justice William Rehnquist was fetched to swear in the Senate jury.

Then chaos. The Senate's confusion recalls the line about Columbus' trip to the New World—he didn't know where he was going, didn't know how to get there, didn't know where he'd been.

Short trial? Long trial? What rules?

Baffled Majority Leader Trent Lott had no operating instructions for this complex gizmo. Worse, 12 hours before the trial, Lott was pummeled by advice from Republicans, Democrats and hard-line House managers.

Lott's dream of a quick, no-circus trial was shattered when House team boss Henry Hyde told him: "You've got to have a complete trial. It can't be a sham. You'll marginalize what the House did."

Hyde's ultimatum opened old House-Senate animosities. Democratic leader Tom Daschle was infuriated. Other Senate egos bristled when House bulldog Bob Barr was quoted, "The Senate's attention span is so short, we'll have to simply, simply."

Exhausted by pressures, Lott took the Senate floor at dusk Wednesday to say, OK, we'll have a "full" trial. "We have a lot of gaps," he said.

Translation: The guys in the backroom are bickering over witnesses—a euphemism meaning, "Are we gonna hear Monica?" What's at stake, some senators feared, was their decorum blown to smithereens by a Monica porn show. Imagine the Q&A:

"Ms. Lewinsky, is this your dark blue dress? Will you describe the stain and how it got there?"

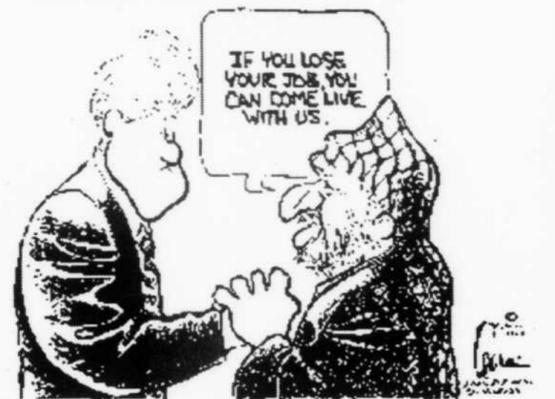
After all, the key phrase of impeachment Article I is that Clinton perjured himself "about the nature and details of his relationship with a subordinate government employee." Clinton's arcane defense: He did not have intercourse with Lewinsky, nor did he cross the line of the narrow Paula Jones suit definition by "gratifying" her.

Picture the Senate—and maybe a TV audience—squirring while Monica is told, "Please describe explicitly what sexual activities you and William J. Clinton performed on Nov. 15, Nov. 17, Dec. 31, 1995,

See MONICA, page 7

COLLEGE PRESS

REAL PANIC SETS IN FOR THE FIRST TIME



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To submit an opinion column, come by the Sidelines office in the James Union Building, Room 308, or email the editor at stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu.

From the Mailbox



MTSU needs more spaces available for day care

Dear Editor,
I would like to bring attention to a problem faced by all MTSU students who have young children. There is a day care laboratory available to students, faculty, school employees, and members of the community; yet, the available space in this child care facility is limited to 40 children. According to the 1998 MTSU Undergraduate Catalog, the amount of students enrolled at MTSU exceeds 18,000 and the amount of faculty members adds another 700 people to the count. When considering the size of the community that MTSU is located in, 40 available spaces hardly seems adequate for child care.

There is a great need for affordable and quality child care in the entire nation, but those who are attempting to better themselves through a college education may very well be in a financial situation where child care, or the lack thereof, may dictate whether or not college is even possible. Students who are also parents have obviously shown a commitment to the school by enrolling and attending the classes they've registered for and by paying their tuition or taking our exorbitant loans for such said tuition, it only seems fair that MTSU meet this commitment by providing an adequate amount of child care for these students with special needs.

Aside from the expenses of building a facility to accommodate the needs of students with children and any insurance needed for such a facility, I see few other costs associated with the maintenance of a school-run child care program. Students seeking degrees in education could work at the facility through a work/study program in which they'd gain valuable experience and perhaps earn money to help pay for their tuition as well. A significant lower fee could be charged for the students and the school employees who utilize this program and MTSU could strive to make a name for itself in child care, elementary education, and for attempting to make a positive difference in the lives of children and the parents that struggle to support them.

Sincerely,
Alondra Carnahan

Meal plans should have longer hours

Dear Editor:
I would like to address the problem that I believe that the dining halls should have longer hours for meal plan holders. Many people including myself have night classes and do not have a chance to eat before class. By the time we get out of class, the dining halls are closed. Basically, we have a meal plan that is not doing us a lot of good.

I am suggesting extending meal plan hours by one hour. This would mean that the James Union dining hall would close at seven and Corlew Hall would close at nine. I am aware this would put some extra financial strain on the university. Then also having to find workers who will be willing to cover the new shifts will be difficult as well. Still, an hour extension is really not a massive change. For all the students who purchase a meal plan, I am sure the university could see its way to give the students all they pay for when they purchase a meal plan.

Other schools such as UT-

Martin and UT-Knoxville have facilities that accept the meal plan and are open until ten. They realize that a lot of student have late classes, and if a student eats lunch at noon or one, they are not ready to have dinner before their classes. If they do, they will probably be hungry after class. Maybe we can use these other schools as examples and try this on a probationary period to see how it works. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Yours,
Golden Hand

Vegetarians need a place to eat on campus, too

I am writing about the lack of vegetarian food in the cafeterias. There is an extremely small variety of food vegetarians can eat here. I feel because of this lack of food, vegetarians on campus are not getting all of the essential vitamins necessary to stay healthy.

There are many things that need to be done in order to fix this problem. First, explain to the cafeteria workers what a vegetarian is. I realize that this may be starting a little basic, but you would be surprised to find how little these people know. For example, the other day I was ordering from the Treat Yourself Right in the JUB. I asked if there was meat in one particular dish. The woman responded, "No that's vegetarian. It's just got chicken in it." These people are college students; they should be aware of what a vegetarian is.

Just simply enlarging the vegetarian menu would make an incredible difference. It won't make a noticeable amount in cost, and I'm sure there are a few meat-eaters that could cut back on cholesterol and flesh intake. Overall, you would have much healthier and attractive students on campus.

The most obvious thing missing from your vegetarian menu is tofu. Before coming to MTSU, I ate tofu almost everyday. There is no tofu in the cafeteria and there probably never has been. There is absolutely no reason for this. It's not expensive, it has 37 grams of protein in every pound and it's better for you than meat.

I realize this school is dominantly ruled by meat-eaters, but for the few vegetarians there are, please think about enlarging your vegetarian menu so we can eat decent meals too.

Casey Cramer
freshman

More seats are needed in the KUC

The seating in the KUC is inadequate. There are too many students trying to eat lunch at the same time with not enough space to do so. Many people who leave class on time or maybe a few minutes late have to resort to standing or sometimes not eating at all.

There is a large portion of the KUC that is designated as a smoking section. The many times that I have passed it, the students aren't using it properly. In fact, only around 20% of the people in that section were actually eating. This wasted space could seat almost fifty students that had the idea of eating in mind when they went into the cafeteria. The privilege of smoking should be moved outside where it will not affect students who are trying to eat. Although smokers will not like this idea, they cannot argue

that the best ventilation lies outside.

Picnic tables could be placed in front of the KUC and umbrellas could be put over them. This way, the smokers will not get wet when it rains. Although the cost of this project may be expensive, the cost of a picnic table will only run about fifty dollars each—I am sure that students would be happy to donate some money well spent to see this plan come into action.

There is also a section across the hall that is never used, which also has a television. I am sure that if more people knew about it, it would be used more often. All that would have to be added is a few more tables. There are tables perfect for this all over campus that are sitting in the hallways not being used. This is a free expense.

If there was more advertising of these spaces, more people would vacate this area during lunch time. The television would be a perk for people that are interested in watching soap operas instead of eating. I am sure that students like me who are affected by this problem would not mind putting a little time and effort to make the flyers.

With a little work, we could rid ourselves of this problem and we could all sit down and enjoy a meal in peace.

Terry Campbell
freshman

Financial Aid gives students the runaround

Your handy guide to what they say in Financial Aid, and what they mean:

"You have reached [a recording for] the Financial Aid office of MTSU [since we've set up no e-mail account like everyone else on campus]. We are currently assisting [frustrating] students in the registration process [so 19,000 of you will just have to wait.] We only have a limited number of phone lines available [apparently one] at this time [and that one will always have someone on it.]

Therefore your wait maybe longer than normal [before the phone system unexpectedly disconnects you.] Please stay on the line for the next available assistant.....[you can figure out the rest.]

Why don't they set up a TRAM-type system, or at least e-mail for Financial Aid?

I'm sure the current system can't possibly be the best way to handle things.

Terry Robertson
thumbby2@aol.com

To submit a Letter to the Editor, send it to:
Editor in Chief
c/o Sidelines
MTSU Box 42
or email it to:
stupubs@frank.mtsu.edu
subject: Letter to the Editor

The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. All letters must be signed. Please include your box number and phone number in case of questions.

For more information, call 898-2336 or 2337

MONICA continued from page 6

and on Jan. 7, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, March 31, April 7, Feb. 28, and March 28, 1996."

Those X-rated details at the heart of the perjury charge were ducked by a squeamish House panel. As Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., says: "Did the president touch her here or not touch her here? They do not want to take that to the Senate. If they are specific, they are trivial."

No wonder the conundrum over Monica's testimony has twisted the Senate into a pretzel. In their private caucus, half of the Republican senators, demanded witnesses for the Clinton trial.

"You need to look people in the eye to see if they are lying," Santorum said.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, was

not enthusiastic about hearing Monica sing: "It's not necessary. We have her on record."

But Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., insists witnesses are pivotal. He'd avoid a Monica show-and-tell TV embarrassment: "She could appear in closed session. Television would be off. We don't have to offend people's sensibilities."

But how can the senators have a trial about lying about sex with no sex?

House hard-core managers, hoping a messy trial will somehow produce 67 vote to convict the prez, demand a parade of Betty Currie, Vernon Jordan and Monica. Lott fears Monica would produce a peep-show carnival—and the longer this show runs, the more ferocious the politics.

Clinton's lawyers? They're mum and helpless. But if the House squad brings on Monica, they've

grided for war - their own witness team including Linda Tripp and L. Jay Goldberg. Clinton's legal troupe would happily let Lewinsky repeat her grand jury quote: "Nobody asked me to lie, nobody offered me a job for my silence."

For Lewinsky, who hoped to ghost a book, do a Barbara Walters interview and seek privacy, facing a Senate firestorm would be the ultimate trauma. She's already the most infamous sexpot since Anne Boleyn got the ax. No wonder the Senate's a confused mob. They saw what dalliance with the Rodeo Drive princess did for Clinton. Should they risk 210 years of dignity for a date with Monica? ■

Sandy Grady is Washington columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may write to him at the Knight-Ridder Washington bureau.

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FEATURES

Combat cold weather

Michele Conklin
Staff Reporter

In the next few months we will be fighting the "cold war." It is a guarantee that you will catch at least one cold this season, but there is hope and lots of advice out there for fighting off this nasty little virus and winning this battle.

Every year millions of school and workdays are lost because of colds and flu. According to the KidsHealth: School and Daycare Digest, "In the first two years of life, most children have an average of eight to ten colds, and children can bring home any of more than 200 viruses that can cause the common cold from daycare or school."

Did you know that...

1. The first symptom of a cold is often a "tickle" in the throat?
2. The common cold is a contagious viral infection of the upper respiratory tract and is caused by a number of different viruses?
3. Colds can last from seven to 14 days, and if prolonged, complications such as sinusitis or bronchitis can occur?
4. The contagious phase of a cold is in the first two to four days after symptoms appear.
5. The over-the-counter decongestants that most

people buy to treat colds and flu have been reported to cause hallucinations, irritability and irregular heartbeats in children?

With all of today's technological and medical advances and knowledge, nothing cures winter colds and flu like good ole' fashion common sense and healthy habits, according to Health Educator for the Middle Tennessee Region, Cheryl Wolfe. "Keeping the immune system strong and frequent hand washing are some of the most important things to remember," said Wolfe.

Some other things to remember about staying healthy during these cold winter months are:

- * Wash, wash, wash your hands and when you can't wash your hands immediately, keep your hands away from your face.
- * Eat a healthy diet
- * Drink lots of fluids (i.e. water, juices, etc.). Dehydration breaks down the immune system or aggravates an already low immune system.
- * Now is a good time to quit smoking. Smoking irritates the mucus membranes, throat and lungs.
- * Dress for the weather. Keeping your feet dry, wearing a hat, gloves and dressing in layers can lessen your chances of

catching a cold. This is not a reason why you catch a cold, but it can be a contributing factor, according to Wolfe.

* All night partying and binge alcohol drinking can dehydrate the body and cause the immune system to weaken. There's a lot to say about a good night's rest.

* Use paper tissue to blow your nose and cover your mouth when sneezing or coughing. Viruses and bacteria stay in cloth for up to 3 hours.

* Don't touch your face after being around someone with a cold or someone who just has the symptoms.

* Weather permit, open windows to stir up the air a little. Germs love stagnant air.

* Disinfect high-touch surfaces, such as counter-tops, sinks, handrails, doorknobs, etc.

It is not usually necessary to go the doctor's office, but if the symptoms persist for 10 days or longer, a fever of over 101F lasts for several days, pain in the ear appears or the glands in the neck seem to be enlarged or tender, you may want to give them a call.

This month's Prevention magazine listed the following ways to boost the immune system and where to find them:

* Beta-carotene is a well-

known infection fighter. It's found abundantly in dark green and vibrant orange vegetables such as broccoli, kale, pumpkin, spinach and sweet potatoes.

* Vitamin C speeds up the production of interferon that helps to neutralize viruses and bacteria and is extra potent in combination with vitamin E. Vitamin C can be found in asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, peppers, snow peas and tomatoes.

* Vitamin E wards off viral infections and respiratory illnesses. Good sources are vegetable oils, nuts, whole grains, fish, dark leafy greens and pumpkin.

* Vitamin B6 strengthens the immune system and it can be found in beans, cabbage, cauliflower, potatoes and walnuts.

* Zinc is essential in the production of white blood cells that produces antibodies. Good sources of zinc are oysters, milk, seeds and whole grains.

For your information, it is best to get natural sources of these vitamins and minerals from fruits and vegetables rather than taking supplements. Try a mixture of these boosters in a heart-warming and body warming bowl of soup to help in the battle against colds and flu. ■

Plagiarism increasing on campus

Roberto Sanchez
Knight-Ridder News Services

SEATTLE - The college term paper about Bill Gates seemed too smooth, too refined for an undergraduate. There was also that little detail about Gates' age being off by two years, which hinted of staleness.

So George Dyson, who teaches history of technology at Western Washington University, put the student paper to the test. He took one phrase that seemed particularly distinct - "his brilliance and remorseless desire to succeed" - and entered it in an Internet search engine.

He found a 2-year-old paper from the Web site of a computer-science class at the University of Michigan.

"The wording hadn't even been changed," Dyson said. "It really was no mystery to solve."

The practice of plagiarism may not have changed much from the days when frat houses kept bins of old papers for members to "recycle," but the tools students use to cheat have changed - and so have the tools teachers use to catch them.

Computers let students quickly copy and combine material from others and pass it as their own, and the Internet gives a wider selection, through class Web sites, bulletin boards and free clearinghouses such as <http://www.schoolsucks.com>

The Internet also gives commercial vendors a better way to hawk archived or custom-written papers (sold as "study aids" or "reference materials"), charging \$20 a page or higher. Previously, these services advertised through kiosk fliers or ads in the back of magazines.

"When the world becomes your oyster, there are so many more opportunities to access information, and there are more opportunities to cheat," said Gus Kravas, vice provost for student affairs at Washington State University.

"We've had to become more vigilant." The University of Washington has recorded eight cases of plagiarism this year, compared with 10 in 1997 and seven in 1996. Four involved Internet sources in 1996, one in 1997 and three so far this year.

But those numbers significantly understate the size of the problem, because most cases of plagiarism are handled by faculty or deans without going through formal disciplinary action, said Ernest Morris, UW vice president for student affairs.

Fred DeKay, associate dean of the Albers School of Business and Economics at Seattle University, said plagiarism is fairly rare there, but the use of the Internet is more common when plagiarism does happen. One case last year involved a student who lifted articles from the Internet and claimed them as his own - in a class on business ethics.

Cheating may be easier because of the computer, but so is getting caught.

For starters, most library catalogs are electronic and many materials are online, so faculty members don't have to spend hours looking through paper indexes for documents that may have been lifted without attribution.

Kevin Laverty, an assistant professor of business at UW-Bothell, routinely goes to the Web and to indexes like Lexis-Nexis to look for the sources of suspicious papers.

Much of the plagiarized text, he said, is written in journalistic style because it comes from periodicals. This makes it that much easier to spot.

"If I can find the article in 15 minutes ... that's how much effort they are putting into it," Laverty said.

Faculty members share tips on how to spot plagiarism through seminars, E-mail, discussion lists and library Web sites. Some even post lists of places that distribute free papers on the Web, to help colleagues check suspect papers.

Smelling a profit, software companies and faculty members have written programs to spot plagiarism.

Glatt Plagiarism Services, a company based in Chicago, sells a program that takes out strategic words in essays, then tests writers by asking them to fill in the blanks. Students who plagiarized will get a low score on the test, according to Barbara Glatt, owner of the

Grads seeing another year of heavy recruiting

College Press Exchange and
Barry Gilley /Staff

Don't shed any tears for the 1999 crop of college and MBA graduates.

The annual fall recruiting survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers shows a 10 percent increase in hiring projections overall.

Undergraduate and graduate computer-related majors remain in hot demand. Some college career offices also report more interest in undergraduate finance, business and accounting majors.

Among top MBA grads, continued growth in consulting will help offset the an expected decline from investment banking, said Karen Dowd, recruiting specialist with human resource consultant Brecker & Merryman in New York.

One big change: Recruiters are appearing on campus earlier, extending offers sooner in the senior year and pressing students to accept early in some cases by offering larger signing bonuses to those who make up their minds in the fall.

"If you want to get to the best students, you have to get there early," said Jerry Villella, an alumnus of Southern Methodist University's Edwin L. Cox School of

Business who helps recruit on the campus for J.P. Morgans's Dallas regional office.

"We've moved up our interview dates by an entire month. We were there in October. Some feel even that's too late," Villella said.

At Nortel Networks, the Canada-based telecommunication firm, "a lot of recruiting we typically would be doing in the spring of '99 has already been done in the fall of '98," said senior recruiter Kurt Hall.

While most recruiters say they're rushing to campus to beat or match the competition, internships have also stepped up the courting process. More students are seeking and getting meaningful work experience earlier in their undergraduate of MBA studies. That, in turn, leads to earlier job offers.

Take Mark Mynhier, a second-year MBA student at SMU's Cox School. Mynhier got a job offer in the last week of his summer internship with Pittiglio, Rabin, Todd & McGrath, a management consulting firm specializing in high technology.

For Mynhier, the decision was a no-brainer.

"Considering that my summer was an exceptional experience, and the fit was uncanny," an extra bonus for the early decision was "just the icing on

the cake," he said. He accepted in September.

Mark Castiglione, another Cox MBA student, also accepted a job from his summer internship with Houston-based Enron Corp.

"They set a benchmark," he said. "I thought it was a great opportunity for me, and I was able to cull out a lot of companies that I might otherwise have interviewed."

Was he a little worried about the economy? Sure, Castiglione said. "Some of the investment banks in New York are laying off pretty heavily. That was another factor to consider, that the opportunities are probably going to be smaller."

Investment banker J.P. Morgan is hiring in some business segments even while laying off in others said Villella, who manages the firm's private client business in Colorado from its Dallas regional office. Asset management and private banking are growing, he said, while the firm has cut jobs in emerging markets and investment banking.

Even while manufacturers and investment bankers may be cutting back, some service industry employers are beefing up.

According to Recruiting Trends '98/'99, published by Career Services and Placement at Michigan State

University's Collegiate Research Institute, large organizations will likely reduce hiring levels but the slack will be taken up by medium-sized companies who are expecting to hire more graduates this year.

The report also predicts that starting salaries are expected to increase from between 3-5% for most majors.

According to Martha Turner, director of Placement, the number of employers recruiting on campus have gone up from 88 in the fall of '97 to 113 in fall of '98.

"It was a great job market."

Unfortunately, the totals for the '96/'97 and '97/'98 school years aren't as positive, dropping from 223 employers to 211.

Turner says that 30 employers canceled due to lack of interest of students. If those employers had not canceled, there would have been 241. "We just couldn't get students in here to interview."

Turner says that students graduating Spring or Fall of '99 should have their resumes on file with Placement by January since interviews start in February.

Prospective graduates can find the Placement office in room 328 of Kethley University Center or reach them by phone at 898-2500. ■

Symptoms of stress found in increasing numbers of students

Ralph Vigoda

Knight-Ridder News Services

"Warning: Attending college can cause headaches, nausea, sleeplessness, irritability and eating disorders."

You are not likely to see that kind of label on those glossy college brochures that feature photos of perfect lawns, impressive stone buildings and happy students.

But all those maladies are symptoms of stress, and all, according to campus officials and counselors, are being found in increasing numbers of students.

In the last decade, they say, more students have arrived at college barely able to cope when the pressure builds.

"We are seeing today's college student having the problems that you might expect a 40-year-old executive to have, from stomach disorders to headaches," said Fred Newton, director of counseling services at Kansas State University and author of a recent article in *On Campus* magazine titled "The Stressed Student - How Can We Help?"

Experts point to numerous reasons why this generation seems more stressed than in the past, including the breakdown of the traditional family.

Students increasingly come out of broken homes or from homes where parents were so busy and stressed themselves that they had no time to talk out their children's problems, they say.

In addition, students raised on television and video games, instead of books, can come unprepared for the heavy load of reading and writing that mark college studies.

They also say many of today's college students have gotten used to having all their activities planned by adults - from Tuesday soccer practice to Thursday piano lessons to weekend trips - and find themselves unable to deal with long blocks of unscheduled time that are features of university life.

That also has a flip side: students who take on so many activities that 24 hours in a day aren't enough.

Throw in the financial pressures that force students to hold down jobs during the school year, the competitive academic environment, and the worry that the job market is changing too rapidly for

students to keep up academically, and the brew can be poisonous.

"It builds up," said Kate Robertson, a junior political science major at Villanova who is on the crew team and helps with student orientation but who gave up singing with Villanova Voices because of time constraints. "It's not only schoolwork; it's all the activities. You get to the breaking point."

Sometimes a bad grade on an exam or a relationship suddenly gone sour can send someone over the edge.

"I got a call (recently) at 1 a.m. from the hospital about a student who broke up with a significant other, and he'd taken pills in a suicide attempt," said Stewart Cooper, director of counseling service at Valparaiso University in Indiana, who has co-written a book on college mental-health services.

Newton, of Kansas State, likens the difference in generations to the difference between "Leave it to Beaver" and "Melrose Place."

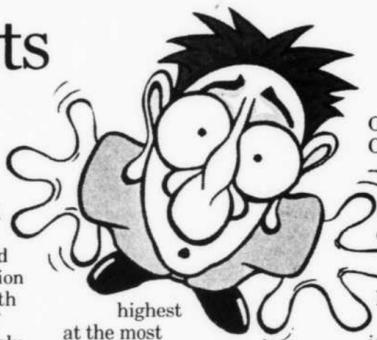
"Leave it to Beaver" might not have been the only way, but it was very clear cut," he said. "Melrose Place" gives you all these possibilities, much of it based on short-term satisfaction. The options of today are confusing to students."

The number of students seeking services at counseling centers rose dramatically in the last decade, said Dennis Heitzmann, director of the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services at Pennsylvania State University. At Penn State, he said, about 2,000 students - 5 percent of the main campus' population of 40,000 - visit the center annually.

Untold numbers, he added, attend workshops designed to alleviate stress throughout the year.

"Colleges today pretty much have to have counseling centers staffed by a full range of mental-health providers, from psychiatrists to psychologists to social workers," he said.

Nationally, 7 percent to 8 percent of college students seek help, according to Robert Gallagher of the University of Pittsburgh, who conducts an annual survey of counseling-center directors. The percentage tends to be lower at large public schools, higher at small, private colleges, and



highest at the most prestigious schools, he said.

Partially as a response to student complaints about stress, Penn State officials recently announced that, next October, they will inaugurate a fall break that will include a four-day weekend in the middle of the semester.

Many schools began such breaks years ago.

Colleges also plan informal stress relievers throughout the year. At the University of Chicago, for example, Elvis has paid a visit to sing, sign autographs, and serve fried peanut-butter-and-banana sandwiches during a special theme night in a dining hall. At Westminster College in Salt Lake City, students work out their frustrations around a table covered with cans of Play-Doh.

"In the Philadelphia area, an assistant director for residential life - who is also a certified massage therapist - teaches students about the power of touch at Temple University, dogs and cats are brought to Haverford College so that students can pet their stress away, and a group of students trained by a psychologist maintains an office for walk-in customers at Penn State/Abington. The office is known as A Place to Talk.

"I teach them basic massage techniques to relieve their own stress and the stress of their friends," said Rose Romett, who does about eight programs each semester at Temple and has presented workshops at other colleges in Philadelphia.

Students, she said, complain of stress-related headaches, body pain, neck and shoulder pain.

"One of the things I show them is the pressure points on their bodies they can hit to release pain and tension," she said.

Cooper, of Valparaiso, said students are often their own worst enemies.

"They feel they need very good grades, and then they feel that's insufficient," he said. "They must also be the leader of

Organization A and active in Club B and think they have to have their schedules filled."

"You're here for such a short time that it's carpe diem all the way," said Michael Scotto, a Villanova junior who calls himself "Wall Street bound."

He works three days a week in the school's weight room, has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and the Special Olympics, and is active in a fraternity and with the student-orientation team.

Students often flip-flop their days and nights, Cooper said, staying awake until the early-morning hours, then trying to catch up on sleep during the day.

"We've seen the time for peak usage of the computer centers are midnight to 3 a.m.," he said. "Not just for academic work, but for social interaction like e-mail and chat rooms."

That kind of schedule, counselors say, leads to a cycle of missed classes, missed sleep and added stress.

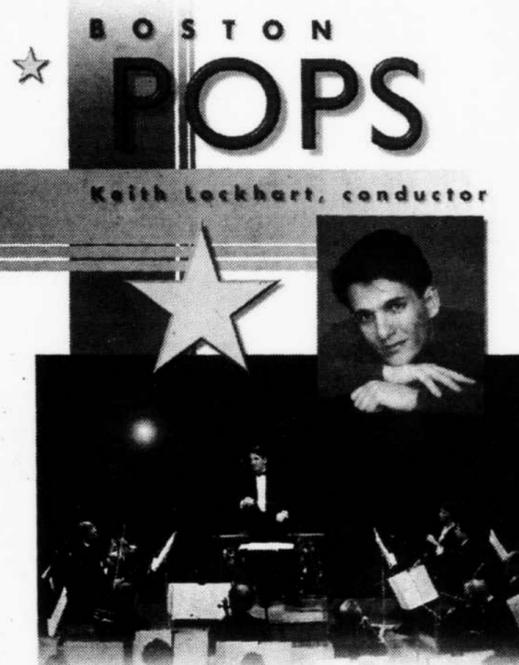
Though the stigma once attached to seeking help seems to have abated - perhaps, counselors suggest, because students have been to therapists during their high school years - Ian Birky bemoans the fact that too many students still don't know how to seek help.

They've grown up getting messages that idealize the ability of "winners" to manage things on their own, said Birky, director of counseling and psychological services at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.

"They try to do everything without reaching out to someone else to talk about how they are feeling, the difficulty of dealing with all their choices, and their own high expectations, which drive them to succeed at all costs," he said. "This dynamic of trying to go it alone gives rise to holding in more stress and anxiety than is healthy for most normal people."

Birky oversees one-hour stress-management workshops in Lehigh's dormitories that begin with identifying symptoms of stress. Then the discussions turn to reasons for stress. They end with exercises in breathing, relaxing and positive thinking.

One of the biggest challenges, he said, is to teach students to talk to one another. It may be the most valuable lesson they will learn. ■



Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra

Saturday, January 16, 1999

Murphy Center, 8:00 p.m.

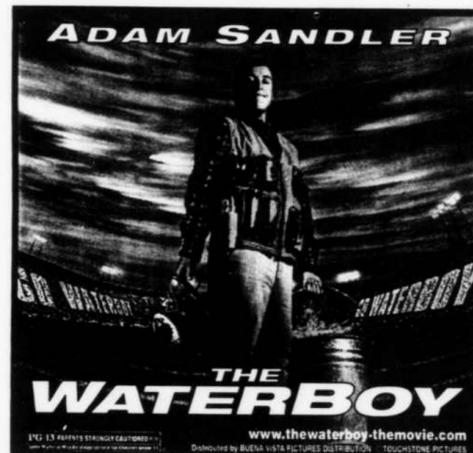
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Presented by MTSU Concerts in association with TPAC. Sponsored by The Tennessean, Nashville Public Radio WPLN 90.3, Mix WJXA 92.9, and WSMV-TV Channel 4. Two hour program to include popular selections from "Titanic," John Williams' score to "Hook," a set with guest vocalist Robin McElhatten, selections from "Runnin' Wild: The Boston Pops Plays Glenn Miller" and a medley of Elvis Presley favorites titled "Long Live the King."

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We are looking for members to work Boston Pops on Saturday, January 16.

'The Faculty' passes but does not get an A

Aaron Tallent

Staff Reporter

Director Robert Rodriguez ("Desperado," "From Dusk 'Til Dawn") and writer Kevin Williamson ("Scream" and "Scream 2") have teamed up on *The Faculty*, a slick, fast paced, sci-fi/horror film.

The film is a variation of "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" and geared towards the MTV generation.

The film takes place at a midwestern high school. The school has its share of problems, including lack of funds, students dealing drugs and burnt-out teachers. The plot centers around six students.

Casey (Elijah Wood) is the class brain and the subject of torment from school bullies. Delilah (Jordana Brewster) is the self-centered cheerleader. Stan (Shawn Hatosy) is the quarterback who has grown

tired of football and wants to concentrate on his education. Stokely (Clea Duvall) is the school outcast. Zeke (Josh Harnett) is the apathetic genius who uses his intelligence to make drugs and sell them on campus. Marybeth (Laura Harris) is the new girl from a small town who is trying to make friends.

These students begin noticing that their teachers and classmates are beginning to behave in an emotionless and conformist fashion. Since these six students are the only ones that notice a difference, it is up to them to get to the bottom of what is going on and put a stop to it.

"The Faculty" is an undeniably fun movie. Rodriguez's stylish direction combined with Williamson's sharp 90's dialogue make the film an enjoyable ride. Williamson also once again proves that his scripts can keep

you guessing up until the very end.

Of the six teenagers, Wood is the only big name in the picture. The other five actors give commendable performances as well, especially Josh Harnett. If Harnett makes good career choices, he can have success similar to Leonardo DiCaprio's.

The teachers are not played by A-list stars, but there are several familiar faces in the cast. Bebe Neuwirth, Lilith Crane on "Cheers," is the principal. Robert Patrick, who will forever be imbedded in people's memories as the T-1000 in "Terminator 2," is the football coach. Salma Hayek, a mainstay in Rodriguez's films, plays a nurse and Jon Stewart, the new host of "The Daily Show," plays a science teacher. Each member of the cast delivers a worthy performance.

The soundtrack, which consists mainly of today's bands

doing covers of old songs, makes the film enjoyable as well. Creed does a good cover of Alice Cooper's "Eighteen." Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall" is covered by Class of 1999, a group that includes Rage Against the Machine guitarist Tom Morello and Alice in Chains vocalist Layne Staley.

The only problem with "The Faculty" is in the fact that the film gives us large doses of style and fast-paced action, but does not offer a great deal of substance. The characters remain one-dimensional throughout the film. Also, the film offers nothing new to body-snatching films except a different setting, MTV glossy images and fast edits.

A little more originality and interesting twists would have been nice. Nevertheless, "The Faculty" is a good film. I would recommend it to anyone who is looking for a fun film to see. ■

PLAGIARISM

continued from page 8

company.

Some Internet sites even use electronic coding to mark their documents and pictures.

"You may vary the spacing between words (in a document) just by tiny amounts. You can encode a one or a zero," said Hector Garcia-Molina, a professor of computer science at Stanford University. "A human cannot see it."

But faculty members with experience say all it takes to spot a fake paper is attention and a little common sense.

Robert Harris, an English professor at Southern California College in Costa Mesa, often looks for language or skills on a paper that don't match the performance of a student in class. If he suspects plagiarism, he often will ask the student to read segments aloud. Few students use words they can't pronounce, he said, so if they stumble, it's a sign to check the paper further. ■

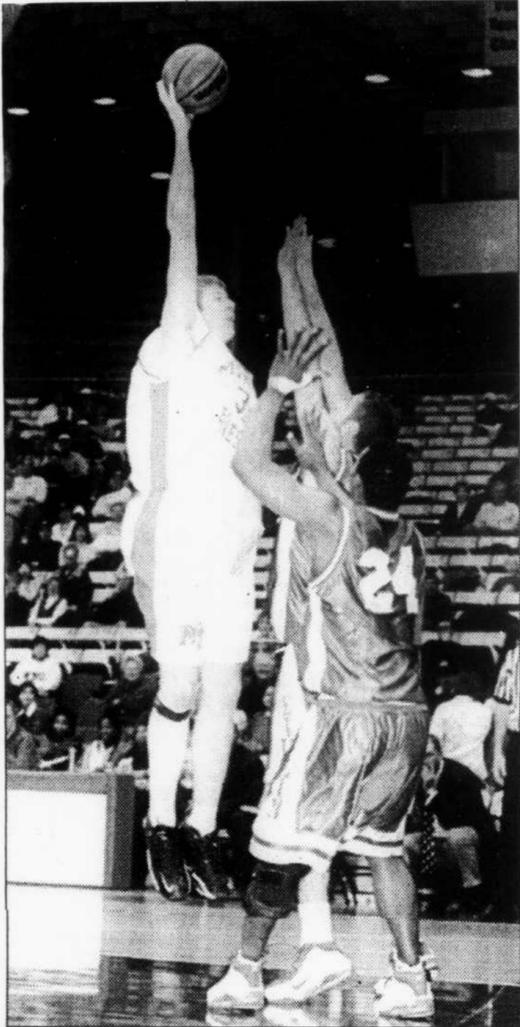
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SPORTS

Raiders lose game at the buzzer.



Photos by Derrick Wilson

MTSU player take shots despite blocking attempts by players from Eastern Illinois. The Blue Raiders will try to rebound from this at-the-buzzer loss when they take on Tennessee Tech Tuesday/

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

The Blue Raider men's basketball team will try to rebound from a heart-reaking loss to EIU against Tennessee Tech on Tuesday.

MTSU was beaten on Saturday when Eastern Illinois made a shot at the buzzer to win the game. It was a heart breaking loss, but the show must go on.

Key injuries are plaguing the Blue Raiders at this point in the season. They have a good opportunity to beat a quality basketball team in TTU tomorrow night. MTSU beat the Eagles on the 5th of December with a 67-56 win in the Murphy Athletic Center. MTSU had four men in double figures including the leading scorer Ali McGhee who finished with 17. Lee Nosse finished with 7 rebounds and 16 points.

Tech has not been blessed with height this year. The Blue Raiders will have a heavy advantage in that stage of the game. Starters in the first meeting for the Blue Raiders included Richard Duncan and McGhee in the backcourt. In the front court, Cedrick Wallace and Dale Thomas accompanied Nosse. Thomas has been shooting out of his mind this year. Going into Saturday game against EIU he was shooting over 60 percent from the floor. In that game he finished with a 6 for 6

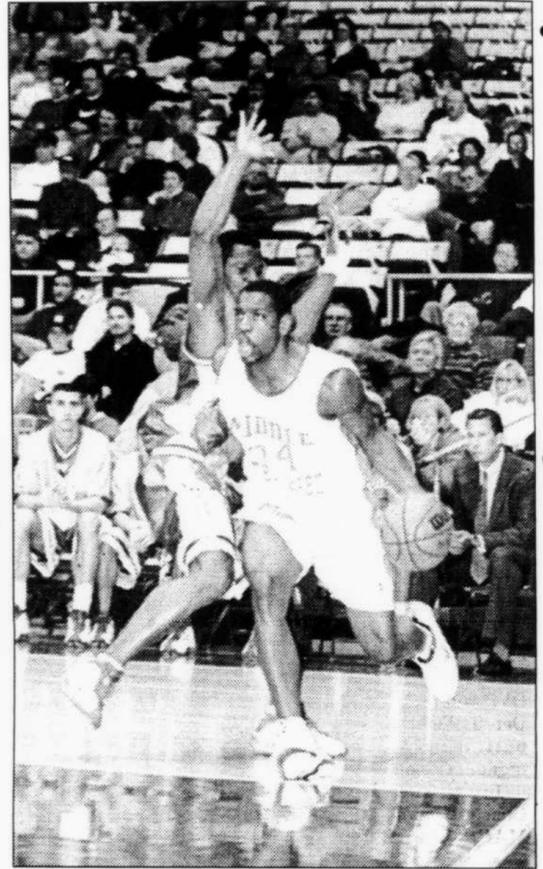
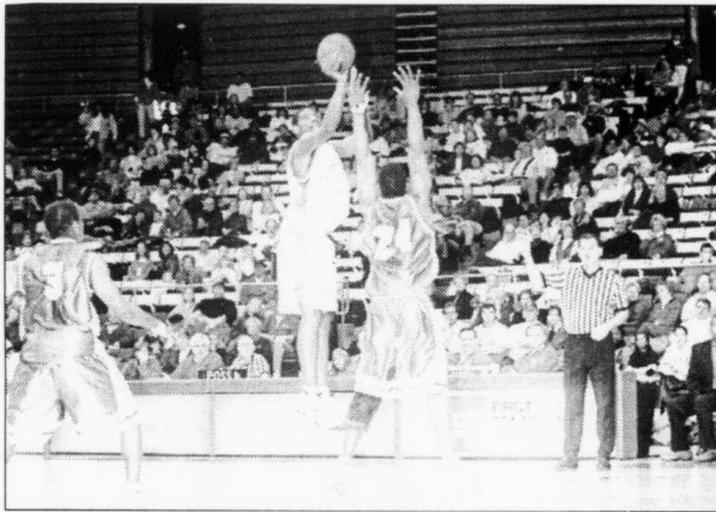
night. Cedrick Wallace is coming off of one of his better performances of the year against EIU when he totaled 21 points. He managed to get 11 in the first meeting with TTU.

For the Eagles, Eric Akins led the scoring with 15 in the first meeting of the two teams. Akins is a 6 foot 9 inch center. He tips the scales at a mere 200 pounds. Nosse should have his way with the under sized Akins. The Eagles don't have anyone really tall, but they do have several who are in the area of 6-6 and 6-7. TTU shot only 38 percent from the floor in the first game. That included a first half when they connected on only 7 of 24 field goals. MTSU shot 53 percent in the first half of the game and led 43-17 at the half. However, in the second half, the tables turned and TTU began to claw back into the game. However, MTSU hung on to an 11 point win.

MTSU took a tough hit to their confidence on Saturday. However, just like the football team when they were beaten in the final seconds by the same EIU school, they must suck it up and move on to the game. This is when the fans of the big blue will find out what this

team is made of. They have the option of laying down and conceding the season. The other option includes sticking out their chests and blowing up on every opponent they face from now to the end of the season.

Their overall record is irrelevant at this point. The Blue Raiders still have enough talented players on the team to compete and win in the OVC. Now is the time when they have to win games, not on talent alone, but with their hearts. ■



Photos by Derrick Wilson

Cedrick Wallace, 34, dribbles past an Eastern Illinois player during Saturday night's game at the Murphy Center.

This basketball season's start most exciting in several years

Michael Edwards
Sports Editor

Conference play has begun all across the country in College basketball. Every team that is currently in a Division 1-A conference has played a game within their respective conference.

The top 25 in the Associated Press poll starts off with Connecticut at the top followed by Duke, Cincinnati, Stanford, and Maryland. That's right, I said Maryland. In the USA Today top 25 poll, the order is changed just a bit with the top 4 the same and Kentucky is in the 5 slot.

I don't know about anyone else, but I think that this first part of the season has been the most exciting start to a season that there has been in a while. It's not every day that you see teams in the top 10 playing each other this early in the year. Most of the time, teams like Duke and Michigan will play the teams which have players that go to schools where the rat to student ratio in the dorms is 2 to 1. However, that has not been the case this season. I have seen Duke and Kentucky, as well as Maryland and Kentucky play against each other. Duke also played Cincinnati in Alaska. I saw North Carolina play our very own Blue Raiders live. That was enough to make a true fans' year. Even better than that, following the game, Bill Guthridge, UNC head coach,

talked directly to me after stepping on my left foot.

Even though MTSU has struggled to start, the basketball season has been one of endless excitement. That's not it though, it's just going to get better. Later in the year, one of the best small schools in the country is making an appearance at the Murphy Athletic Center, the MAC. Murray State, who has made the NCAA tournament several times in the past few years, not to mention handling Arkansas and Michigan in last year's preseason, will visit. The Blue Raiders, however, went toe to toe with the Racers in Murray last week and the same is expected in the next meeting.

As the season gets closer to March Madness, it will get more and more exciting. Some of the conference games on the schedule include: Kentucky-Arkansas, UNC-Duke, Arizona-UCLA, Auburn-Kentucky and there are many others.

The UNC-Duke game is without a doubt the most gut wrenching rivalry in all of college basketball. Whether it is in the Dean Dome or in Cameron Indoor, the students support the teams and so do the people in the community. If only every school had diehard students like that; the kind of fans who bleed the color of their school. The kind of fans who actually show up to support their athletic program. Whether the team is good or mediocre or just plain terrible, these people show up and have a good time.

In all of the games so far at MTSU, there has not yet been one home game that has not been exciting. These athletes, both men and women, lay their bodies on the line every day at practice and every game that they play. They will not win every game, but they will play their hearts out. They are not asking much from their fellow students. All they want is for the students, faculty and community to support the team. They play no more than 2 games per week and usually they are not both at home. What else are you going to do on a Thursday night? Support the teams. The game that the men played against North Carolina was awesome. As a freshman, I didn't have a lot of school pride until that game. The crowd was into the game and the band played the fight song. That just sent a shock down my spine as the men entered the gym. Why can't it be that way every game? The crowd was loud and the team, after releasing some first half butterflies, played very well in the second half, and actually had a shot at winning. These men and women leave their hearts on the floor game in and game out because of the pride that they all have for the school and the student body. These men and women love their school, the student body and the game. Otherwise, they wouldn't make the sacrifice that they make.

The next game is on the 21st against Morehead State. Be a fan and support the teams. ■

Football fans can argue over their team's ranking

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

Let the arguing begin! The College Football season is over and now it is time for all of the fans to argue over the final rankings.

For the most part, this is not unusual. Every year fans disagree with the final rankings, often thinking that their team is ranked too low while others are ranked too high. Unlike most years, an obvious National Champion existed this year. For once the press did not decide who the best team was, this matter was decided on the field. Will the Bowl Championship Series always work out this well? Who knows? Let's review the BCS bowls that led to the coronation of Tennessee as the National Champion.

The inaugural game of the Bowl Championship Series pitted the Wisconsin Badgers versus the UCLA Bruins in the Rose Bowl. As usual, the Bruin offense was spectacular while their defense was the exact opposite. Cade McNown threw for 340 yards and two touchdowns, but Ron Dayne gained 246 yards rushing for the Badgers, which is one yard short of the Rose Bowl record held by Charles White of USC. This was the second straight game in which someone rushed for over two hundred yards against the Bruins (Miami's Brainerd, and it was the Bruins second straight loss (Wisconsin 38 UCLA 31). Wisconsin ended up ranked fifth, while UCLA ended the year at number eight.

The second game of the Bowl Championship Series pitted the Texas A & M Aggies versus the Ohio State Buckeyes in the Sugar Bowl. This game was one in which the Buckeyes made big plays while the Aggies did not. The key play was a blocked punt return for a touchdown by Kevin Griffin of the Buckeyes. The Aggies tried to come back,

but they were simply unable to move the ball on the Buckeye defense. Down the stretch, David Boston was the man for the Buckeyes. He amassed eleven catches for 110 yards, as well as MVP honors. Ohio State erased the memory of last year's embarrassing loss to the Aggies in 24-14. However, people in Columbus might not be smiling for very long. Andy Katzenmoyer and David Boston recently declared themselves eligible for the NFL Draft.

In the third game of the Bowl Championship Series, the Florida Gators battled the Syracuse Orangemen in the Orange Bowl. This marked Florida's first appearance in the Orange Bowl since 1967. In that game, Steve Spurrier, who ironically is now the Gators coach, led the Gators to a 27-12 victory over Georgia Tech. In this year's Orange Bowl, the Gators were again victorious, although the score of this game was more lopsided (Florida 31 Syracuse 10). However, the Gators faithful have reasons to worry. Doug Johnson broke his ankle in the second quarter and Jevon Kearsse and Reggie McGrew recently declared themselves eligible for the NFL Draft.

In the main event (the Fiesta Bowl), the Tennessee Volunteers battled the Florida State Seminoles for all the marbles (the National Championship). The first quarter was plagued with penalties and mistakes by both teams. In the second quarter these penalties and mistakes began to hurt Florida State. A roughing the kicker penalty prolonged a Tennessee drive that ended with Shawn Bryson scoring on a six yard strike from Tee Martin to make the score 7-0. The Seminoles responded by throwing an interception, which was returned 54 yards for a touchdown by Dwayne Goodrich to make the score 14-0. Florida State fought back to

See RANKINGS, page 12

Lady Raiders extend streak after big win

Josh Ezzell
Staff Reporter

The Lady Raiders extended their winning streak to three with a 99-63 victory over the Eastern Illinois Lady Panthers Saturday night.

Early on, the Lady Raiders took control by embarking on a 17-4 run to start the game. Following a time out, the Lady Panthers answered with two straight baskets by Leah Aldrich to put the lead to 17-8 with 13:43 remaining to play in the first half. At this point, Cyndi Ainsworth took over, scoring the next seven points to expand the lead to 24-9.

Eastern Illinois refused to go away. Behind the play of Leah Aldrich and Colleen McShane, the Lady Panthers were able to keep the game from getting out of hand by cutting the Lady Raiders lead to eleven at 33-22 with 6:52 remaining to play in the first half.

Bama Burrell and Cyndi Ainsworth answered with the next six points to expand the lead to 39-22 with 4:29 remaining in the first half. The Lady Panthers attempted to get back into the game, but once again the Lady Raiders had an answer. The answer came in the form of a three point play by Jamie Thomatis, which extended the lead to seventeen at 47-30 with 1:14 left in the half.

The first half ended with the score 48-32 in favor of the Lady Raiders. Jamie Thomatis was the Lady Raiders leading scorer with nine points. She thought that the Lady Raiders did an

excellent job of maintaining the lead.

"We kept the lead and built on it. Everyone played well and made sure that we did not lose the lead this time," said Thomatis.

The second half was more of the same. Behind the play of Bama Burrell and Cyndi Ainsworth, the Lady Raiders extended the lead to twenty-four at 68-44 with 13:22 remaining to play in the game.

Emily Dowell and Leah Aldrich tried to stop the bleeding for the Lady Panthers, but it was too late, the onslaught had begun. With a balanced scoring attack, the Lady Raiders built the lead to thirty-one at 86-57 with 5:10 remaining in the game. The Lady Raiders finished off the Lady Panthers by a final of 99-63.

Jamie Thomatis led the attack with seven points. Bama Burrell and Cyndi Ainsworth contributed fourteen points each. Leah Aldrich of the Lady Panthers led all scorers with twenty-two points.

Coach Stephany Smith was pleased with the Lady Raiders play, especially that of the bench.

"We had one of our best defensive efforts of the year. The bench played well defensively, and took care of the ball. We maintained a high level of intensity which enabled us to keep the lead," said Coach Smith.

The Lady Raiders improved to 8-5 overall, and 4-1 in the OVC. The Lady Panthers dropped to 3-10 overall, and 1-5 in the OVC.

The Lady Raiders next home game is on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 5:30 p.m. at the Murphy Center against Morehead State. ■

Raiders battle Tech again in Cookeville

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

The MTSU womens basketball team was 5-1 and had just come off their first OVC win over Tennessee Tech Dec. 5. Well the two teams will butt heads again tomorrow night in Cookeville.

In the first meeting, Kelly Chastain blazed the nets at the MAC. She finished with shooting 6 of 12 from the floor and 8 of 8 from the free throw line. Chastain finished with 20 points. Erica Lufkin came off the bench to add 11 to the total. MTSU won the game 74-63. The Blue Raiders shot 44 percent from the floor, while holding the Eagle to 39 percent.

Tech ended the first half with a 5 point lead. The second half didn't look that promising for the Raiders. However, the team had a different agenda.

They didn't shoot as well in the second half as they did in the first, but the defensive effort was tremendous. The Blue Raiders forced 25 eagle turnovers.

Many of them came in the come back attempt. After trailing at the half by 5, MTSU won the second by 16. The two added together gave them their 11 point win.

Carlita Elder and Courtney Neely started in the backcourt for the Blue Raiders, while Bama Burrell, Jonelda Buck and Kelly Chastain rounded out the starting lineup.

The Eagles started 6-2 Diane Seng at the center position. 6 footers Amber Clark and Andrea Baldwin also complimented Seng underneath the basket. 5-5 Ann Parks started with 5-6 Misty Garrett in the backcourt.

For the Blue Raiders, a starting lineup change is expected. Lufkin has been

starting at the 2 guard while Elder has been coming off the bench. Lufkin is instant offense whenever she is in the game. Leave her open and she will make the defense pay. Freshman Janet Holt scored 15 after coming off the bench. Seng scored 12 points in 19 minutes.

The Raiders won a big game against EIU Saturday night. The win moved the OVC record to 4-1, including three straight over OVC foes. For MTSU to win, its simple.

If they keep shooting the ball well and disruting it. They will win. When they don't shoot well they need to hustle with their defense and hustle, and they have.

MTSU will win the game 81-68. Bama Burrell and Erica Lufkin will have big games.

The OVC better watch out for the Blue Raider women's team, because it looks like their's a new sheriff in town. ■

Predators tie Chicago 3-3 in overtime match

Michael Edwards
Staff Reporter

GOALLLLLLLLLLL! The Nashville Predators took on the Chicago Blackhawks Saturday night in what would go down as the most exciting NHL game that I have seen in a while.

Early on in the contest, the teams were exchanging shots on net and fantastic saves by the goalies. From the stands, the fans could see Predator reserve goalie Tomas Vokoun, and the starting goalie of the Blackhawks, Mark Fitzpatrick, sprawling every way possible to make key saves for their respective teams.

After 4 shots by the Predators and after 14 minutes had passed, the first goal of the night was chalked up to Predator center Greg Johnson. He was assisted by Andrew Brunette. 1-0 was the score after 1 period of play. Other than the goal, the other highlight of the first half was a fight between the Predators Denny Lambert and the Hawks Mark Janssens. After a couple of good shots by Janssens, Lambert threw a big left to the jaw of Janssens which, with a little help, put the two men on the ice. That's when the officials broke up the scuffle.

At the start of the second period, Nashville wasted no time in putting yet another goal on the scoreboard. With just 42 seconds gone off the clock, Vitali Yachminev broke free of the pack and caught a rebound off of a Johnson miss and followed with a goal of his own. With the score 2-0 in favor of Nashville, the Predators fans were

liking the outlook on the game. After 6 minutes and 48 seconds had passed in the second, yet another fracas broke out. The two fighters included Nashville's Patrick Cote and Chicago's Janssens. This time it appeared that the penalty box regular Janssens would get the best of Cote.

After everything was sorted out, the two went to the penalty box for 5 minutes. However, in 28 seconds Nashville's Darren Turcotte would give Nashville a three goal lead. Directly off a faceoff, Turcotte snuck into the Chicago zone and was fed by Bob Boughner. Turcotte shot and scored on the helpless Fitzpatrick. With 8 minutes gone in the helpless period, Chicago's Mike Maneluk broke away from the pack and was about to fire on goal when from out of nowhere Drake Berehovsky of Nashville made a diving stop. That prevented the Hawks first goal. 20 seconds later, a brawl broke out. It was five on five. Every player that was on the ice excluding the goalies began to fight. The gloves and fists began to fly. However, much to the dismay of the fans of Nashville, the officials broke it up and the game proceeded. That was following a goal by Chicago's Chris Chelios. Chelios's goal was slapped from just outside the crease. The goal made the score 3-1 in favor of the Predators.

Two minutes later, Todd White of Chicago scored his first and only goal on the night just as the Chicago power play came to its conclusion. The Nashville lead had been cut from 3 goals to 1 goal in a matter of minutes. Nashville was

See PREDATORS, page 12

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ACC, Pac-10, SEC rule national roost

Dick Jerardi
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA - It's an annual debate with no clear answer. Which conference plays the best basketball?

There are eight power conferences, but really only three are involved in the debate this decade. And it's not the Big Ten, Big East, Big 12, Atlantic 10 or Conference USA.

It's the Atlantic Coast Conference, Pac-10 or Southeastern Conference. The ACC has been a constant. The Pac-10 has made a breakthrough in the last few years. And the SEC, with the re-emergence of Kentucky as the best program in America, has been awesome lately.

The ACC has really been Duke, North Carolina and a bunch of very good wannabes. The Pac-10 has some real quality at the top and a few bozos at the bottom. The SEC has been carried by Kentucky and Arkansas, but even its second-tier teams are dangerous come tournament time.

Some stats:

- In the decade, there has been only one Final Four without an ACC team - 1996. Duke and North Carolina have been in four each, winning three combined.

- The Pac-10 is 24-8 in the NCAA Tournament in the last two years, and 36-16 over the last four years. The league has had a team in the Final Four in four of the last five years. UCLA won the championship in 1995 and Arizona in 1997.

In the last five years, the SEC has a 49-20 (.710) record in the NCAA Tournament, better than any other conference. Over the last six years, the SEC has had eight teams reach the Final Four. Kentucky, of course, has been there four times and won two championships. Arkansas was there twice and won a title. Many forget that Florida (1994) and Mississippi State (1996) also made it to the last weekend. Both those years, the title was won by an SEC team.

- Since Nevada-Las Vegas won the title in 1990, the ACC, Pac-10 and SEC have won all the championships.

So, which is best?
Who knows?

KNIGHT SPEAKS, SORT OF:

Last week, I wondered exactly what it was Indiana coach Bob Knight was trying to say when he told ESPN's Digger Phelps: "The most susceptible guy in any gambling scheme is an official, without any question. I mean, if we only knew the truth about games that were controlled by officials having gambling interests, I think it would be amazing."

Turns out Knight was "just speaking in generalities," according to Indiana basketball contact Gregg Elkin.

Apparently, what he meant to say is that an official, if he wanted to, could control a basketball game and cash a bet. Of course, that's not exactly what he said.

"Other than that interview, I've never heard him talk about the subject," Elkin said.

Phelps didn't follow up and ask some obvious questions. Which could have led Knight away from what he said that, although not specific, cast general aspersions on every official.

Apparently, Knight has no names to name. He just wanted to make the point that officials are "susceptible" to gamblers. No argument there.

He said more. Given a chance by the Daily News to either retract the most damning statement or name names, Knight, through Elkin, declined.

OVER THE EDGE:

I like Dick Vitale. He's one of the nicest guys in a business filled with self-important bozos. He's fun to hang with and talk to.

Having said that, I can't take much more.

Sunday, he put me over the edge. It's bad enough I've got to watch Maryland (my school) play horribly and lose badly (again) to Duke. I've got to listen to Vitale explain that Maryland's Steve Francis might be the "best talent" in America, but not the "best player."

Francis didn't have a good game against Duke, which happens to a lot of players who deal with

the Blue Devils. But he's an exceptional basketball player, arguably the best in college.

Unfortunately, Vitale unwittingly promoted a stereotype. Francis's background (hardly played in high school, two junior colleges, playground legend) is becoming well known. There is a tendency with a player like that to assume he has great ability but isn't coachable and doesn't know how to play.

What makes Francis so unique is that, even with his background and great talent, he does know how to play. He wants to play defense. He listens to his coach. Contrary to what Vitale said, he moves well without the ball, even though he is a natural point guard. For all of those reasons and more, the pro scouts love him. Trust me. He is, as I wrote the first time I saw him in person, the next great basketball player.

Here's some advice, Dick. Stop screaming so much and watch the games again. You might relearn what you used to know and seem to have forgotten.

THE DECISION TO POSTPONE:

Bad weather was coming to the Midwest, so Villanova did the prudent thing and beat the storm to South Bend, Ind., over the weekend. But the officials didn't make it and Saturday night's game with Notre Dame was postponed. The weather was so bad that it wouldn't have been fair to play it Saturday. Few fans could have gotten there.

The game could have been played Sunday. The sun was out. Travel was possible. No game.

"When we made the decision on Saturday, we were being told by local authorities that conditions might actually worsen on Sunday," said Tom McElroy, Big East senior associate commissioner. "A lot of secondary roads were still blocked and the airport was still closed."

Turned out the forecast was inaccurate. Which happens.

Another problem, according to McElroy, was that many of the Notre Dame game personnel were stuck in their driveways and couldn't go anywhere.

Big East referees must arrive the night before

an afternoon game, but don't have to arrive until the day of a night game. So, they never made it to Notre Dame.

Officials, players and fans will be at the Joyce Center tomorrow for the 4 p.m. makeup game. The reason for the early start? So Notre Dame can head for Miami, where it plays Saturday, and Villanova can head home to prepare for its game at Rutgers Saturday.

WATCH OUT FOR BUCKEYES:

Jim O'Brien didn't want to leave Boston College. It was his dream job. But when the admissions department denied admission to several of his key recruits, it was clear he had no future there.

So, he went off to coach Ohio State, a sleeping giant if ever there was one.

With no chance to recruit for last season, O'Brien, one of the best game coaches anywhere, had no chance. His team was 8-22 overall, 1-15 in the Big Ten.

With BC transfer Scoonie Penn and sophomore scorer Michael Redd leading the way, these Buckeyes are 12-3, 2-0 in the league.

With a top-20 fall recruiting class on the way and a fancy, new gym in sports-crazed Columbus, Ohio, it's only a matter of time until major success comes.

O'Brien might not have wanted to leave BC, but he'll have an opportunity at OSU to do something that would have been impossible at BC - compete for a national championship.

WORST GAME OF SEASON:

There is still half a season to play, but Virginia Tech at Massachusetts last Saturday might be hard to top in a season of bad ball.

Consider that the teams combined to shoot 34-for-97 (35.1 percent), 4-for-22 from the arc (17.4 percent) and 23-for-40 from the foul line (57.5 percent).

Combined, they didn't break 100 points in UMass's brutal 55-40 win. Just 20 miles south of the Mullins Center in Amherst is where James Naismith invented the game in Springfield. The good doctor deserves better. ■

Thompson resigns as Georgetown coach

Mike Jensen
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA - Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson, one of the towering figures in college basketball, announced his resignation on Friday at a morning press conference.

There are so many images attached to Thompson over the last several decades. He won an NCAA title in 1984 and coached the 1988 U.S.

Olympic team that lost to Russia in the semifinals. He also walked off the court just before the tip-off of a 1989 game with Boston College to protest an NCAA proposal that would have denied financial aid for freshmen ineligible to play because of academic restrictions, helping to get the proposal altered.

Thompson also gave rise to the term "Hoya Paranoia," as critics pointed to the way he circled the wagons around his basketball program.

Another side of him is the savvy

businessman who is on Nike's board of directors.

The Hoyas are off to their worst start ever in the Big East and could be headed to their worst season in Thompson's 27 years as coach.

The Hoyas are 7-6 but 0-4 in the Big East, with the wins coming against the likes of Maryland-Eastern Shore and Morgan State.

However, Thompson has been upbeat about the future, and some recruiting analysts consider his class arriving next fall to be the best in the

Big East.

"One of the best in the country," Prep Stars Recruiter's Handbook called it.

"Help is coming," Thompson, 57, had said. "We have to hold on one more year."

The timing is interesting, coming just a day after the NBA lockout was settled.

Georgetown graduate Patrick Ewing is president of the player's union, and agent David Falk, who had threatened to start a rival league, also

represents Thompson.

Meanwhile, the only NBA coaching job open right now is the Los Angeles Clippers.

Thompson did miss the Dec. 22 Maryland-Eastern Shore game with what was announced as a stomach virus. His son, Ronny, 29, joined the Georgetown staff as an assistant this season.

His overall record is 596-239, a .710 winning percentage, and his program gained a reputation for having its players graduate on time. ■

RANKINGS
continued from page 10

make the score 14-9, but Tennessee had one big play left. Tee Martin connected with Peerless Price on a 79 yard touchdown pass which made the score 20-9. The Martin to Price touchdown pass is the longest in

Fiesta Bowl history. Price had four catches for 199 yards, which places him in second place in receiving yards behind Darnell McDonald of Kansas State, who had 206 receiving yards last year against Syracuse. In the end, Tennessee prevailed 23-16 to become the National Champions. ■

PREDATORS
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given a power play when Ethan Moreau was caught cross checking a Nashville player. The next two minutes were a golden opportunity for the Predators to score. However, the Hawks killed the penalty and the period came to a close.

In the third period, the Nashville hopes of winning were growing more real with every tick of the clock.

The Blackhawks came into the game managing to not lose when trailing after 2 periods 4 of their last 49 games. They are 3-18-2 this season in the same scenario. Unfortunately, the

statistics would not hold true this night for the home team. With 8 minutes and 59 seconds gone in the final period, Nelson Emerson scored the game tying goal. Regulation ended with the score tied at 3.

In overtime, the Predators had a chance to win on a couple of good scoring opportunities.

However, the Predators attempt would come up just a bit short. The game ended in a 3-3 tie.

Tonight, the Predators face the Philadelphia Flyers in Philadelphia. The Flyers are currently riding the success of a 14 game unbeaten streak. They have a record of 19-9-10. They are ranked 4th in the eastern conference. ■

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